Book reviews

THERAPEUTICS IN NEUROLOGY By Donald B. Calne. (Pp. 328; illustrated; £8.00.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1975.

It is an aphorism in general medicine that 'there is no treatment in neurology'. If this were ever true, it is certainly not so today. This excellent book is, therefore, timely in providing a good source of reliable information on the applied pharmacology of neurological disease. A minor criticism of a book on therapeutics is that there is sometimes lack of guidance on the selection of the appropriate medication in different clinical situations. Perhaps this will be rectified in a further edition, which is sure to be called for.

J. A. SIMPSON

NEUROSECRETION—THE FINAL NEUROENDOCRINE PATHWAY Edited by F. Knowles, and L. Vollrath. (Pp. 345; illustrated; \$48.20.) Springer: Berlin. 1974.

The study of neurosecretion has flourished since the days when the observations of the Scharrers' were regarded as somewhat aberrant and Bargmann 'fortunately enough, being the sole editor' published his work on the selective staining of the neurohypophyseal system in the *Zeitschrift für Zellforschung*. Nevertheless, it remains faintly surprising that a relatively insignificant group of cells in the anterior hypothalamus should have been the focus of so much attention: not that the scrutiny has been misdirected, as is shown by the assessment of the findings of two decades of research in the present volume. While morphological studies are well-represented in the first 70 pages, much more space is devoted to biochemistry and physiology, with the production and release of the hypophysiotropic hormones and the activities of the monoamine systems in the brain being discussed at length. Because of the emphasis on review and evaluation the book is of much greater value than a mere collection of symposium papers, and is recommended to all interested in the fundamentals of neuroendocrinology. It provides a very clear and current picture of the concept of neurosecretion, though it is symptomatic of the rate of progress that the term 'neurosecretion' has yet to be satisfactorily defined.

B. T. DONOVAN

PATHOLOGY OF CEREBRAL MICROCIRCULATION Edited by J. Cervos-Navarro. (Pp. 517; illustrated; DM 140) De Gruyter: Berlin. 1974.

This book comprises the papers presented at a symposium on the cerebral microcirculation held in Berlin in 1973. As is inevitable in such a publication, many of the papers are rather short and contain only a few illustrations but they attain in general a very high standard and are supported by useful lists of references.

Since the contributors to the symposium included physiologists, morphologists and clinicians from all parts of the world, there is a wealth of information about the development, structure, and pathology of the microvasculature of the central nervous system, and about ischaemic/hypoxic brain damage in man and in experimental animals. There is also a useful section on the regulation of the cerebral circulation. It would appear to me that the principal value of this book is to provide a reasonably up to date overall view of many aspects of the cerebral microcirculation, the type of techniques that are relevant to improving understanding about the microcirculation, the centres and individuals who are working in the field, and the relevant key references.

Both the publishers and the contributors are to be congratulated on the very high standard of the illustrations, particularly many of the injection preparations and electron micrographs.

J. HUME ADAMS

LYMBIC AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEMS RESEARCH Edited by L. V. DoGara. (Pp. 428; illustrated; \$28.50.) Plenum: New York. 1974.

The book surveys a large amount of research, mostly in animals. There are chapters on neural integration of thermoregulatory responses and on sleep, but particular emphasis is given to studies of the interrelationship of the autonomic nervous system and its cerebral connections with emotional behaviour and with cardiovascular control. Remote as well as immediate effects are considered. If young animals are exposed to influences which might increase the heart rate, will this increase or decrease their tendency in adult life to respond to such situations with tachycardia? The evidence is not yet clear, and the mechanism of any effect there may be, may not