disorders, new techniques have been evolved, as in cerebral blood flow studies, or where biopsy and neurophysiology are easy, as in peripheral neuropathy and diseases of muscle. Are the main advances of the future to come from the laboratory? Is it really true that the last thing to be, if you aspire to a Nobel Prize in Medicine, is a practising doctor? It may be so, but there is plenty of good clinical observation here too. The author of page 389 who writes caustically that 'from France, the homeland of Chauvin, have come reports' of a well-known syndrome described eponymously in favour of a French writer, must be rather thoughtful after reading the whole book which concentrates on American contributions even if not the seminal ones. But this is a family celebration of a silver anniversary and they have reason to be proud of it. This is not a textbook of neurology but the publisher's blurb that it is a lure intended to bring new talent into this most exciting and challenging branch of the science should be handsomely fulfilled.

J. A. SIMPSON

Human Communication and its Disorders Volume 3 of The Nervous System Volume Editor Eldon L. Eagles, Editor-in-Chief Donald B. Tower. (Pp. 576; illustrated; \$15.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1976.

The third volume of the series commemorating the 25th anniversary of the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke of the USA is at once the most difficult to review and the most promising for the future. It contains chapters on the mechanisms of hearing which will stretch neurologists and otologists alike but which are essential for the full understanding of the later sections on the central processes of language and on speech. Though the latter still suffers from lack of objectivity, it is quite clear that the necessary knowledge of brain mechanisms essential for language and speech functions is evolving and the interest of neurology is at last turning to the unique functions of the brain as the organ of mind. If research is the art of the possible (well exemplified by the advances in peripheral neurology), the next 25 years is bound to show major

advances in our understanding and perhaps treatment of disorders of communication, the core problem of neurology and psychiatry. This book should encourage young men to enter the lists.

J. A. SIMPSON

Computed Brain and Orbital Tomography: Technique and Interpretation By C. F. Gonzalez, C. B. Grossman, and E. Palacios. (Pp. 276; illustrated; £21.75/\$36.85.) John Wiley and Sons: Chichester. 1977.

The aim of this book is to provide a basic knowledge of the principles, techniques, and interpretation of this new diagnostic method in a small and easily readable volume. It is indeed quite short and with less prodigal use of paper even fewer pages would have been required. It is mainly an atlas of normal and abnormal appearances presented in the horizontal format characteristic of the method but supported by many well-labelled anatomical sections to help those readers unfamiliar with this view of the brain. The authors' claim that the work is based on a combined experience of over 20 000 scans, makes one wonder why, with this extensive material, some of the many empty spaces were not occupied by further examples, or by tables indicating the relative effectiveness of the method in detecting and identifying the various types of lesion. Although a rather costly book for its size it is recommended to those seeking a knowledge of the fundamentals of computed tomography.

J. L. STEVEN

Human Neuroanatomy Seventh Edition By Malcolm B. Carpenter. (Pp. 741; illustrated; \$25.00.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1976.

The seventh edition of this standard textbook is essentially a rearrangement and consolidation of the previous edition to suit teaching programmes but it contains new material on neurotransmitters with a complete revision of the chapter on the autonomic nervous system. The nomenclature adopted by the International Anatomical Nomenclature Committee has been used. A feature of this book has always been the emphasis on 'functional considerations'

with special reference to clinical problems. The excellent atlas of brain and brain stem at the end of the book is now available in slide or filmstrip format.

J. A. SIMPSON

Atlas of the Central Nervous System in Man 2nd Edition By Richard A. Miller and Ethel Burack. (Pp. 63; illustrated; price not stated.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1977.

This atlas is based on part of the course in neuroanatomy taught in the Albany Medical College. It stems from an appreciation of the importance of myelin-stained sections, cut in sagittal and transverse planes, in the proper understanding of the neuroanatomical configuration of the central nervous system.

The first part consists of six representative levels of the spinal cord, and 32 levels of the brain stem cut transversely in the medulla and lower pons with a gradual shift to frontal sections beginning in the rostral pons and progressing into the thalamus and cerebral hemispheres. The second part of the atlas consists of a midsagittal and 21 selected parasagittal sections. Structures are identified by code numbers based upon the sagittal sections with many cross references to the transverse sections, thereby facilitating the three-dimensional relationships of fibre tracts and nuclei. For the most part the nomenclature of the Paris revision of the Basle Nomina Anatomica has been used. Each figure is accompanied by notes which develop the important concept of structure and function with reference to the neuroanatomical basis of the more common neurological disorders. In addition to an alphabetical index, anatomical structures are also indexed in the numerical order of their code numbers.

Unfortunately this book fails to achieve excellence in its primary function as an atlas of the central nervous system for at least 12 of the transverse and two of the sagittal figures are either not in focus or are of poor quality. Some of the figures are also marred by substandard artwork. Furthermore, as a clinical neuropathologist used to screening large cel-
luloid sections of the cerebral and