Book reviews

A Review of Anatomical Neurology
By W. R. Ingram. (Pp. 428; illustrated; £13.95.) University Park Press: Baltimore. 1977.

This book is aimed particularly at students in the basic medical sciences and those undergoing higher neurological training, although it is expected that it might be a source of personal reference for continuing professional education for neurologists, neurosurgeons, and psychiatrists.

The text is principally concerned with the structure of the adult central nervous system but there is some inclusion of histological, physiological, and biochemical material. A bibliography follows each chapter. Illustrations consist mainly of line drawings which are clearly labelled.

Some topics are presented with reference to much recent work, but others are less favourably dealt with. The description of brain stem structures concerned with generating breathing appears to be based wholly on work carried out more than 25 years ago.

It is important that the reader should know that the format of the text is not conventional, but consists of a series of numbered or lettered statements that read consecutively. Many readers may find this style helpful, but in the reviewer's opinion it detracts from the appeal of a text of more than 400 pages.

J. NEWSOM DAVIS

Clinical Electromyography By J. A. R. Lenman and A. E. Ritchie. (Pp. 214; illustrated; £7.50.) Pitman Medical Publishing Ltd: Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 1977.

The second edition of this popular text on electromyography is largely unaltered in its general layout, the initial chapters being devoted to methods and the rationale behind basic techniques of clinical electromyography, while the later chapters concentrate on their clinical applications. Since the first edition was published, a number of new techniques, particularly in the field of quantitative electromyography have appeared, and details of these are now

incorporated in the text along with observations on reflexes, spinal cord disease, and the radiculopathies. The authors are to be congratulated on the retention of a simple style of presentation in a book which for its size is a relatively comprehensive survey of this discipline. The text is always very much to the point and the reader will search in vain for redundant prose. There is comprehensive bibliography for those who wish to read deeper into the subject.

This book can be thoroughly recommended to newcomers to electromyography and indeed to all who are interested in the study of clinical electromyography.

J. P. BALLANTYNE

Manual of Electro-Neuromyography
2nd Edition By Hyman L. Cohen and Joel Brumlik. (Pp. 179; illustrated; \$13.95.) Harper and Row: Hagerstown, Maryland. 1977.

The first half of this book leads the reader through the clinical electrodiagnostic techniques available in the routine clinical neurophysiology laboratory. The methods and equipment used are covered in great detail and for each technique the reader is led through each step of each particular investigative method such that it would indeed be possible to undertake electromyography with the book in one hand and the patient on the other. This section of the book is copiously illustrated, and I have no doubt it will be of considerable value to the new student of clinical neurophysiology who has no knowledge at all of electrodiagnostic techniques. This is basically a beginner's manual, whether for the undergraduate student, the technician, or the experienced physician, and indeed the authors have directed this small volume to that audience. I think the book certainly fulfils that aim of providing detailed instruction for the uninitiated. The subject is approached in a rather uncritical manner but perhaps for the new recruit it is more important initially to learn the methods, be familiar with the apparatus,

and know the common sources of artefacts than to be involved in the controversial and often contradictory field of theoretical neurophysiology.

The second half of the book is devoted to illustrated case reports and problem-solving exercises. While there may be a place for this approach, I have never been entirely happy about such types of presentation and doubt if 50% of the volume can justifiably be given over to such exercises. This is the type of information that one would expect the student to acquire progressively during the clinical application of the new techniques he has learned from the first section.

This book can be recommended as a detailed guide to electro-neurophysiographic technique for the beginner.

J. P. BALLANTYNE

Neurosurgical Treatment in Psychiatry, Pain and Epilepsy Edited by William H. Sweet, Sixto Obrador, and Jose G. Martin-Rodriguez. (Pp. 768; illustrated; \$42.50.) University Park Press: Baltimore. 1977.

This is a well produced and edited collection of the papers of the IV World Congress of Psychiatric Surgery in 1975. It is, in fact, the third volume of Proceedings which seeks to display the advances made in the field over the course of two to three years. Ideally, therefore, the interested reader should have all three volumes to understand the remarkable progress made. The present volume is especially interesting, however, because it also includes borderline subjects such as pain and epilepsy. The presentation is unusual in that many of the critical papers are followed by solicited comment from opponents. Most of the work is new and the whole volume attractively presented. There are important papers on basic physiology and behaviour, and the book should be read by all psychiatrists and will undoubtedly prove to be of interest to many others.

E. R. HITCHCOCK