resolved but seems to be getting nearer an agreed interpretation. As well as watching the movement of spindles and measuring their mechanical properties, intracellular recording from intrafusal fibres has now been achieved in intact soleus muscle (cat) by Nakajima from the editor's department. The symposium then moved on to the muscular afferents (sic) and processing of the nerve activity, and then to supraspinal control of the stretch reflex with emphasis on alpha-gamma linkage and adaptive control by the cerebellum. The significance of slow and fast muscles in the stretch reflex and a few "new approach" papers complete a book which is a valuable collection of current ideas on the stretch reflex and its roles in motor control. As a sign of the times, though published jointly from Oxford, no sterling price is quoted.

J. A. SIMPSON

Anatomical Neuroendocrinology Edited by W. E. Stumpf and L. D. Grant. (Pp. 472+VIII; illustrated; \$35.00. Dm 91.) S. Karger: Basel. 1976.

Neuroendocrinology is now an established specialty with its own techniques, language, and literature. From its inception with reports of the phenomenon of neurosecretion by Speidel in 1919 and Scharrer in 1928, it has attracted the attention of several notable biologists. Progress has been rapid as exemplified by a voluminous literature and many conferences. It is a measure of past achievements and the thoroughness of current work that this book is concerned mainly with the detailed anatomical location within the brain of neuroendocrinological mechanisms. The book is based upon the International Conference on Neurobiology of CNS-Hormone Interactions held at Chapel Hill, North Carolina in May 1974. The editors have wisely encouraged expansion of the material for this publication. The result is a valuable handbook of the anatomy of neurosecretion profusely illustrated with anatomical maps and atlases. It will be of great interest to any research workers in the neurosciences and in endocrinology. Workers in neuroendocrinology will find the work essential.

J. TREVOR HUGHES

Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism Volume 6, Number 1—The Hypothalamus and Pituitary Edited by G. M. Besser. (Pp. 281; illustrated; £7.50.) W. B. Saunders: London, Philadelphia, Toronto. 1977.

This book is a useful addition to the *Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism* series. It provides a current authoritative summary of most of the clinically relevant aspects of hypothalamic and pituitary function. Although written primarily with clinical endocrinologists in mind, it will be of considerable value to neurologists, neurosurgeons, and psychiatrists wishing to bring themselves up to date with the many recent advances in the subject. The volume comprises 13 chapters including sections on pathology and radiology of the hypothalamus and pituitary, and on all the characterised hypothalamic releasing hormones, anterior and posterior pituitary hormones including the neurophysins. Although there is a useful chapter on Somatomedin and other growth factors, I think many potential readers would like to have seen a chapter specifically on growth hormone in health and disease. Overall, however, Professor Besser is to be congratulated on maintaining the lustre of this fine series.

J. G. RATCLIFFE

Atlas of Computerized Tomography Scans in Pediatric Neurology By J. T. Jabour, D. Randolph Ramey, and Steve Roach. (Pp. 256; illustrated; £22.50.) Henry Kimpton: London. 1977.

In a paediatric atlas one might expect the subject matter to deal with children but in this book we find that many of the abnormalities and artefacts illustrated also occur in adults. For cases other than hydrocephalus and brain deformities, therefore, one would be better to refer to other publications. The atlas contains some diseases showing normal scans, which seems rather pointless, and in those cases with abnormal scans confirmation is frequently lacking. The introduction contains a description of the principles and technique of computerised tomography which is much too brief to be comprehensible to the paediatric neurologist,

to whom the book is mainly directed. There is no discussion of the principles of contrast enhancement although several enhanced scans are illustrated throughout the book. A list of 100 works is appended but none of these is individually referred to in the text.

If these comments sound harsh they are, in effect, admitted by the authors who, in the preface, apologise for "obvious errors of omission, commission, and distortion" and hope that "in future editions, these errors can be eradicated".

J. L. STEVENSON

Notices

The 2nd World Congress of Biological Psychiatry will be held at the Palace of Congresses, Barcelona, Spain, from 31 August to 6 September 1978. The programme and further information can be obtained by writing to: II World Congress of Biological Psychiatry, Scientific Committee and Secretariat, Casanova 141, Barcelona (11), Spain.

The IVth International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases will be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from 19 to 21 September 1978. An interesting programme of symposia and free communications (platform and poster sessions) has been planned. Symposia with invited speakers have been organised on the following topics: Cell Membranes and Muscle Disease; Acetylcholine Receptors and Myasthenia Gravis; Nerve Structure and Function; Cell Interactions in the Peripheral Nervous System; Toxic Disorders; Developmental Abnormalities; Metabolic Disorders. The deadline for submission of abstracts for free communications is 1 March 1978. Registration information and abstract forms may be obtained from: The Secretariat, IVth International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases, 3587 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2B6.