The book is divided into two sections; in the first part, stereotactic surgical techniques and methods of physiological localisation are discussed and techniques of computer assisted graphic displays for storing physiological data are given. In the second, and larger portion of this book, a detailed account of the results of the physiological mapping, following electrical stimulation is given. Detailed chapters on the major sensory and motor pathways are discussed in relation to specific stimulatory response patterns. An excellent section is provided to show the histological correlation of six necropsy cases in which thalamic lesions have been made. The use of figure charts correlates the physiological effects after neurostimulation and destructive lesions within the human thalamus.

This book provides a concise and up-to-date account of the correlation between the anatomy and physiology of the human thalamus and mesencephalon. It is highly recommended to all stereotactic surgeons concerned with producing chronic stimulation or destructive lesions in these complex regions of the brain. It will also provide great interest to neurologists, neurophysiologists and neuroanatomists wishing to review the current physiology and anatomy of the human mesencephalon and diencephalon.

F AFSHAR

Recent Advances in Neuropathology No. 2. Edited by W Thomas Smith and JB Cavanagh. (Pp 301; £23.00) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1982.

This second volume in the series is a collection of well compiled reviews covering a wide field. Neuropathology is interpreted liberally to include normal neurocytology, neurophysiology and some clinical data. Each chapter covers not only the basic neuro-anatomical, cytological, pathological and physiological aspects of the subject but also discusses their relevance to clinical neurology and neurosurgery. Most readers with an interest in the neurological sciences should find chapters in their main field of interest and will probably be strongly tempted to read the other contributions. The first two chapters are concerned with immunocytochemistry and the structure and pathology of the neuronal cytoskeleton. Other chapters cover myelination and the pathological and functional aspects of demyelination and remyelination in the central nervous system. Specific areas of controversy and current interest reviewed in this volume include the functional prop-

erties of microglia, ageing in the nervous system, and the spectrum of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and virus induced subacute spongiform-encephalopathies. More clinically or physiologically orientated contributions include those on non-missile head injuries, ischaemic injury of the brain and the neuropathology of faecal incontinence. Aspects of toxic neuropathies are discussed in a later chapter and there is a lucid review of the controversy surrounding the aetiology of aqueduct stenosis.

The book is well balanced, well written and illustrated; it whets the appetite for the next volume in the series.

RO WELLER

Manual of Cranial Computerized Tomography. By K York Chynn and Nathaniel Finby. (Pp 106; Sfr 198.) Basel: S Karger AG, 1982.

The book is divided into 10 chapters of which the first describes in considerable detail the history and general principles of CT and the second describes the normal CT appearances in the axial plane. The remaining eight chapters are devoted to pathological processes aetiologically. Each chapter covers its subject in a simple but concise manner and there are plenty of figures which if not of particularly high quality do however demonstrate a large number of useful facts allowing the text to be kept to the necessary minimum and making the whole book very readable and easily understood. The authors intended this book to be used by anyone in the early stages of training who may encounter CT of the brain and who need simple guidelines for every day conditions and in this they have succeeded admirably. The book is certainly recommended as basic reading.

DPE KINGSLEY

The Benzamides: Pharmacology, Neurobiology and Clinical Aspects. Vol. 35 of Advances in Biochemical Psychopharmacology. Edited by Michael Stanley and John Rotrosen. (Pp 221; \$38.44.) New York, Raven Press: 1982.

The benzamides are a novel and potentially valuable class of psychotropic drugs although they have yet to impinge significantly on clinical practice. The best known member of the series, metoclopramide, is known to be an effective anti-emetic but is not used in psychiatry. Pro-

cainamide is the parent compound of the series and although it too is used primarily for its peripheral effects as an antiarrhythmic drug, both drugs have important effects on the central nervous system. Further development of the drug has been concentrated on their effects on the central nervous system, and the newest members of the series, sulpiride and tiapride, are effective antipsychotic drugs.

The clinical application of these compounds is promising but their use as pharmacological investigative tools is even more exciting. It has been unequivocally established within the last six years that antipsychotic drugs act by dopamine blockade of post-synaptic receptors. It has long been suspected that there is more than one dopamine receptor and the recent discovery by Keibabian and Calne of two classes of dopamine receptor is rendered even more interesting as benzamides appear to be unique among antipsychotic drugs in blocking only one of these receptors. This explains some of the paradoxical and unpredicted pharmacological effects of metoclopramide and sulpiride. The benzamides have deserved a volume to themselves for some time and this book amply fulfils the need. Like all expanding subjects, there are many more questions asked than answers given but the speed of advance is such that we may soon have a more specific antipsychotic drug developed from pharmacology rather than clinical serendipity. Levodopa cannot enjoy this unique position indefinitely.

PETER TYRER