

an easy and safe operation and one fraught with danger. The surgeon doing his first lumbar disc operation is immediately engulfed in venous blood from the epidural veins which may make exposure and safe removal of the disc impossible, unless he knows how simple it is to deal with, but this is not mentioned. No one would guess from reading this text that removal of an acoustic neurinoma is the most difficult operation in neurosurgery. A knowledge of the detailed anatomy of the tumour and its blood supply is the essential thing, and one not presented here at all well.

This book contains a mass of information and nearly all the essential facts about operative neurosurgery but they are presented in a manner which is difficult to assimilate and neglects the small details which make for easy and safe operating. Both editions have made a brave attempt to present the illustrations in a novel and dramatic fashion, but this is not a success, and the strange depersonalization of the drawings has made them more difficult rather than easier to understand.

BRODIE HUGHES

CLINICAL NEUROSURGERY Vol. 10. Proceedings of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, 1962. (Pp. xii + 410; 134 figures. \$16.-) London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1964.

In the U.S.A., there are well over 1,000 doctors trained in neurosurgery, and one of a variety of sectional organizations for these, is the Annual Congress of Neurological Surgery. This meeting is dedicated to a distinguished senior neurosurgeon, on this occasion Dr. Bronson Ray. The volume consists of 18 chapters, mostly by familiar names, among them Matson, Graeme Robertson, Gurdjian, di Chiro, French, White, and DeBakey. Many chapters are new presentations of previously published work, and thus provide the opportunity for summarizing the experience of experts in a chosen field, so that many of the chapters become of more than transient value. Indeed many are useful as an introduction to a subject, and the volume is thus a kind of annual review.

ZEREBRALE ANGIOGRAPHIE BEIM FRISCHEN SCHADEL-HIRN-TRAUMA By Peter Huber (Pp. 109; 64 figures. D.M.48.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1964.

This monograph is based on the angiographic study of over 200 acute cases in which this test was considered to be clinically desirable, that is in about 13 per cent of 1,500 acute head injuries. Carotid angiography is of special value in the identification of intracranial haematoma, but this study goes further and illustrates areas of disturbed or distorted intracerebral circulation. The illustrations are of a very high quality and will be studied with profit by those concerned with acute head injuries.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

THE PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT OF HEAD INJURIES By John Potter (Pp. xviii + 92; 8 figures. 15s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1964.

How seldom one finds a really satisfactory book. Most are too long, some too short, many are unreadable and all are too expensive. This book, a second edition of Mr. Potter's short essay on the treatment of head

injuries, satisfies me in every way. It is written in an attractive style, so familiar to all who have heard him speak, and so is readable. It is just about the right length, the print is clear, and its size enables it to be kept in the pocket or put on a shelf without difficulty. Its price is within the range of everyone; I wonder how long it will be before publishers realize that most medical books are beyond the price range of the ordinary students and doctors who should own and read them.

The first edition elicited universally good reviews, and rightly so, and it is not surprising therefore that only a few minor alterations have been necessary in this edition. I read this edition through twice before I became really worried that there was not a single serious fault I could find in it. There may be minor differences about emphasis and there may be some minor omissions, an ultrasonic echo-encephalograph, for instance, may well be the most valuable piece of apparatus in a head injury unit and can be used by anyone with a few minutes instruction, but the book achieves its purpose of giving simple and unequivocal instructions in the management of head injuries. It could and should be read by every nurse, medical student, and auxiliary in hospital, and every surgeon, and even neurosurgeon, would benefit from half an hour with it every year or so. It is sometimes said that unqualified praise is usually uninformed praise, but how delightful it is to a reviewer to be able to give it to at least one book.

BRODIE HUGHES

NEUROSURGICAL NURSING By Reginald S. Hooper with Foreword by E. Harry Botterell. (Pp. xiv + 231; 117 figures. \$10.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

In this country Neurosurgical units usually exist as main station on what is often for the patient a hectic journey through the hands of two or three physicians and hospitals. The brunt of this battering process on the staff side is borne by the skilled nurses and sisters who often do sterling work with an entirely inadequate background of formal instruction. Mr. Hooper has provided for them a well-produced and very practical manual which will be sufficient for the most knowledgeable nurse. Indeed, if a medical student approached his final examination with the contents of this book well digested he would be better equipped in acute neurology than many of his colleagues. The diagrams are excellent, but occasionally are too complicated. Photographs of pathological specimens are seldom worthwhile, but those of faces and patients are often first-class. That of the patient with the meningeal irritation of subarachnoid haemorrhage is a classic. The drawing of pressure measurement at lumbar puncture on page 37 is not quite correct but this will not matter greatly in a work of this kind. I am sure that the nurses for whom it is intended will be grateful for the care and skill which have gone into the making of this book.

HUW GRIFFITH

COMPARATIVE NEUROCHEMISTRY Edited by D. Richter. (Pp. x + 491. £5.) London: Pergamon Press. 1964. This book is an account of the proceedings of the fifth