

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

international neurochemical symposium held at St. Wolfgang, Austria, in 1962. The text confines itself to the formal communications and any free discussions which ensued between these is wisely omitted. Each paper is followed by a comprehensive bibliography.

The book is divided into seven sections dealing with functional organization in different species, lipids, proteins, and RNA, amino acids in different species, energy metabolism and function, neurosecretory mechanisms, transmitter substances, and comparative neuropharmacology.

The participants in this symposium were confined to experts, each in his own particular field, and the text read accordingly. This book is not for the practising neurologist interested mainly in the day-to-day problems of patient care, but it will be invaluable to the research worker, particularly those working in the field of biochemistry and physiology of the nervous system. For those, whether clinicians or experimentalists, not directly connected with this field but who have time to browse through the more abstruse pages of the literature, there is bound to be something of interest, whether it be to discover the amino acid composition of the lens of the octopus eye or the latest views on the problems of the blood/brain barrier.

The print is easy to read and the illustrations well-reproduced but the price would seem to be too high for the individual reader and the time taken to publish the proceedings, namely two years, means that much of the information will already be dated.

J. M. WALSHE

LECTURES ON THE DIENCEPHALON Edited by W. Bargmann and J. P. Schädé. Vol. 5, Progress in Brain Research (Pp. x + 236; 136 illustrations. 80s.) Amsterdam: Elsevier.

This fifth volume of the series, produced under the auspices of the International Brain Research Organization, contains 21 lectures given at the third International Meeting of Neurobiologists at Kiel in 1962. It deals with a large number of topics which have the diencephalon as their common denominator and range from the specific and nonspecific thalamo-cortical projections in man based on stereotaxic surgery, through studies on the changes in the electromyogram and gamma efferent activity following diencephalic stimulation, cell shapes, electrical responses and comparative anatomy of parts of the thalamus, to studies on the hypothalamus and epithalamus. The latter include papers on the chemistry of pineal fats, the ultrastructure and effects of light on the anuran pineal, and a number of important contributions on the neurosecretory systems. Many of the papers report on work which was in progress and there is no attempt to link the various contributions, but this excellently produced volume contains a number of papers which have implications beyond the field of the diencephalon and it should certainly be read by everyone interested in the structure and function of the nervous system.

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE: ANNUAL REVIEWS 1964 British Postgraduate Medical Federation. (Pp. 364; illustrated. 40s.) London: The Athlone Press. 1964.

This book is presumably intended primarily for the instruction and entertainment of practising doctors and perhaps especially for those whose clinical practice curtails the time and attention they can give to laboratory scientific matters. For this audience it will prove profitable and interesting reading.

The contributions tend to fall into two categories: those concerned with more or less pure science, and those related more to applied knowledge. The former inevitably command more respect and interest because they are more imbued with the primary evidence of their subject. The latter are, however, also important and far more difficult to select for such a work as this. It is inevitable that they are more accessible to criticism. Of the first group 'Isoenzymes' by D. W. Moss, and 'The shape of molecules' by W. Klein are especially useful introductions to the scientific background of clinical thinking. 'Experiments on central neurones' by C. G. Phillips, and 'Structural aspects of thrombosis' by J. C. F. Poole convey similar basic knowledge. More readily assimilable to clinical medicine but especially interesting are such essays as 'Does hypersensitivity cause disease?' by P. G. H. Gell, 'Radiation induced genetic changes' by A. C. Stevenson, and 'Functions of the thymus' by J. F. A. P. Miller. Mary Barber's 'Semi-synthetic penicillins' is particularly practical and apropos to some current problems of infection. A leavening of more fanciful information is provided by Oswald's 'Physiology of sleep accompanying dreaming'. This 1964 annual review maintains the range and interest of its fore-runners.

NEURO-PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY Vol. 3. Edited by P. B. Bradley, F. Flügel, and P. Hoch (Pp. xiv + 607; illustrated. 140s.) London: Elsevier Publishing Co. 1964.

This expensive but well-produced volume contains the proceedings of the third meeting of the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum which was held in 1962. The range of the symposium can be illustrated by the titles of the scientific themes selected for special consideration: 'Methods of comparison of behaviour changes with drugs in animals and man', 'Effectiveness of drugs in relationship to psychological and social forms of treatment', 'Biochemical mechanisms of drug action', and 'Drug action on microstructures'. There were also numerous individual communications and a symposium devoted to a critical assessment of status of psychopharmacology at the end of its first, eventful decade. The contributions to this symposium will help the general reader to understand the limitations as well as the achievements of what one speaker called '... a new epoch in the history of psychiatry'.

THE BIOLOGY OF MIND By W. R. Hess. (Translated from the German by G. Von Bonin.) (Pp. xii + 203. 45s.) London: University of Chicago Press. 1964.

Taking as point of departure a lifetime of distinguished personal investigation of the neural basis of the emotions, Professor Hess offers us a synthesis of his conclusions on the nature of the mind/brain relationship. This is perhaps the ultimate problem of the biological sciences. Professor