Hess has made significant inroads on this problem, but on reading his text it becomes increasingly apparent that the attempt is premature. The translater renders a convoluted German original into a translation that falls some way short of meeting conventional standards of English usage.

INSTRUMENTATION WITH SEMICONDUCTORS By C. C. Brown. (Pp. xvii + 254; 13 figures. $10.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Medical research workers are increasingly dependent on electrical apparatus for their observations. It is not possible for most of them to have a detailed knowledge of the workings of their apparatus, but it is desirable that they should know the principle behind them, for this will guide them in acquiring the most suitable apparatus and in using it wisely. This book sets out to meet the need of medical researchers in providing this background, and it does so with a very large measure of success. It covers the field from sensing devices, through amplification and processing apparatus, to the elements of computors, and it is written in plain English, unfamiliar symbols being explained when first used. Future editions will correct some errors (for instance the formula for summing resistances in parallel in Fig. 4:1) but nevertheless this should prove a valuable book giving information difficult to obtain so simply elsewhere.

ULTRASOUND AS A DIAGNOSTIC AND SURGICAL TOOL By Douglas Gordon. (Pp. xii + 413: illustrated. 63*s*.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1964.

This is an important new subject that has developed quickly during the last decade and many will be interested and indeed fascinated by this well presented description of the physics and the possibilities of ultrasound in relation to a great variety of problems of diagnosis, treatment, and research. Every neurologist, neurosurgeon, and psychiatrist must take an interest in this new field and we are greatly indebted to the author for presenting the subject in such an interesting way.

NEUROLOGIE DER WIRBELSÄULE UND DES RÜCKENMARKES IM KINDESALTER Heft 27. Edited by Dagovert Muller. (Pp. 452; 235 figures; 25 tables. 115*s*. 11*d*.) Jena: VEB Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1964.

This volume contains contributions to an international symposium on paediatric neurology held in Berlin (East Germany) in 1962 on diseases of the spine and spinal cord in childhood. The 48 contributions, though mostly from Eastern European countries, included six from France and two from Britain. The absence of American work, probably the most advanced in this subject, makes the symposium unrepresentative of the present state of knowledge in the field. It nevertheless presents a great variety of research approaches often at the clinical level and carried out by practising clinicians in a field to which British research effort is little committed. The symposium is often stimulating and at all points informative. It is warmly recommended to all those who combine a responsibility for the care of children with spinal cord disorder with a knowledge of the German language.

M. KINSBOURNE

CHILD PSYCHIATRY AND PREVENTION Edited by D. Arn. van Krevelen. (Pp. 322. D.M.36.-.) Bern/Stuttgart: Verlag Hans Huber. 1964.

This book contains the proceedings of the fifth international congress of child psychiatry. The congress was devoted principally to the primary prevention of mental disorders in childhood, a bold theme to choose in view of the status of current knowledge on this topic. 'The main point of prevention is its social implications' writes the editor. Perhaps so, but the most satisfying papers are those which stay close to the investigation of physical factors. Too many contributors merely generalize and pontificate.

TEACHING THE EDUCABLE MENTALLY RETARDED, 2nd ed. By M. D. Garton. (Pp. xiii + 296; 73 figures. $8.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

While research on the psychophysiological basis of mental retardation is still in its infancy, the problem of teaching methods cannot be solved by entirely rational means. Empirical methods must be used and the individuality of the teacher must, and should, obtrude. With experience, the teacher develops his own methods and teaching style to suit his temperament. While still floundering, the novice may care to follow some of the very detailed instructions in the book under review, and he can only benefit from the sound advice offered.

M. KINSBOURNE

CEREBRAL FUNCTION IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD Edited by Albrecht Peiper. (Pp. xii + 683; illustrated. 168*s*.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1964.

This formidable volume, competently translated from the German, embodies a remarkable compilation of information relevant to the theory and practice of the new sub-speciality of paediatric neurology. Fundamental neurophysiological facts rub shoulders with highly speculative interpretations of the behaviour of the infant. The origin of ideas of developmental neurology is remarkably fully documented and important sources from 19th century research are, for once, adequately acknowledged. Of definite value as a reference text, this book is also highly suitable for dipping into at random, as on every page there appears at least one remarkable fact likely to give rise to active speculation in the mind of the reader.

M. KINSBOURNE