Book reviews

WORKSHOP IN HYDROCEPHALUS, Compiled and edited by Kenneth Shulman. (Pp. 191, 54 figures.) Sponsored by Department of Neurosurgery, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Printing Office. 1966.

The surgical treatment of hydrocephalus in infancy is still most unsatisfactory. The current use of ingenious valves and shunt operations gives quick relief to progressive enlargement of the head, but few of these patients ever outgrow the need for a shunt device. On the other hand, Dr. John E. Scarff insists that better ultimate results are obtained by the older but more difficult operations advocated by Dandy, of third ventriculostomy and/or extirpation of the choroid plexuses.

This volume reports a conference in June 1966 concerned with these important but difficult problems.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

SPINAL CORD DISEASE. A Radiologic and Myelographic Analysis, By Guido Lombardi and Angelo Passerini. (Pp. x + 175; 107 figures; 28 tables. 72s.) Edinburgh: E and S. Livingstone. 1964.

This is a well-illustrated account of myelographic diagnosis from the Neurological Institute of Milan. There is little information on straight radiology of the spine or on gas myelography but the uses (and abuses) of positive-contrast media are well displayed. The title is a little misleading as most of the material is extremedullary and of mainly surgical interest. The neurologist could wish that the final chapter on miscellanea, including syringomyelia and hypertrophic interstitial polyneuritis, was dealt with as comprehensively as the other subjects which include malformations of the cord, roots, and membranes; vascular anomalies, spinal cord tumours, diseases of the epidural space, spinal arachnoiditis, and degenerative diseases of the intervertebral discs.

Illustrations are excellent and the text is useful, though largely a review of relevant literature with statistical tables from the Institute and reported cases (subject to the usual uncertainty about selectivity). The book is written in good English but a statement that certain lesions 'affect long tracts of the cord' is not used in the technical sense.

J. A. S.

NERVOUS CONTROL OF THE HEART. Edited by W. C. Randall. (Pp. xx + 251; Illustrated. 90s.) Williams and Wilkins. 1965. Baltimore.

This book is a report of a symposium at which were brought together experts on neural mechanisms and experts on cardiovascular mechanisms to discuss the nervous control of the heart. There are sections dealing with the intracranial representation of cardiac innervation, with the pathways in the central nervous system subserving cardiovascular functions, with the terminal innervation of the heart, and with the effect of autonomic

stimulation on cardiac action. It makes available current knowledge on a previously neglected subject. Most of the information is derived from experiments on animals, and the book may serve to inspire clinicians to see how much of it can be confirmed or refuted in man. Patients with lesions from neurological diseases may be particularly suitable for furthering knowledge in this way.

J. M. K. SPALDING

COLLATERAL CIRCULATION OF THE BRAIN, By William S. Fields, Martin E. Bruetman and Jorge Wiebel. 1965. (Pp. 183-259; 57 figures.) Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1965.

This brief monograph is reprinted from the 'Monographs in the Surgical Sciences' series. It provides a detailed account of the embryology of the cerebral circulation showing the origin of the various collateral channels which are available to the fully developed brain. The anomalies encountered at angiography are likewise explained and the collateral channels which function in relation to arterial obstruction at a great number of sites indicated. All this is well described and illustrated; it is in the section on the dynamics of the collateral circulation that the monograph is less satisfactory, the treatment being too superficial, and dubious statements, such as the opening of collateral channels being 'probably effected via a vasomotor reflex causing vasodilation of functional collaterals', being included.

The monograph is, however, a useful book for its anatomical and angiographic content.

LUMBAR DISC LESIONS, 3rd ed. By J. R. Armstrong. (Pp. xii + 307; 66 figures. 65s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1965.

This is an excellent account of the pathogenesis of lesions of the lumbar discs and of the mechanical derangements of the vertebral column caused thereby and the fact that the book is now in its third edition is attributable to its value in these respects. For the neurologist, however, faced as he is with the differential diagnosis of lumbar disc lesions, it is less than satisfying. The description of weakness in terms of joint movement rather than affected muscles, and absence of discussion of such syndromes as 'intermittent claudication of the spinal cord' with central disc protrusions, are examples of its weakness in this regard. Nevertheless as an orthopaedic text it is very satisfying and is well illustrated.

JOHN MARSHALL

FOUNDATIONS OF ANESTHESIOLOGY, 2 vols. By A. Faulconer Jr. and T. E. Keys. (Pp. 715. \$38.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

This substantial work is a history of the development of anaesthesia. There are brief biographical notes, but the bulk of the work consists of reprints of original articles which have been of particular importance in the development of anaesthesia, anaesthetic agents, and anaesthetic

techniques. Neurologists may be particularly interested in the account of over 10,000 cases of spinal anaesthesia without any major neurological sequela being discovered, and in the plea from the same series of cases for a good technique of lumbar puncture to reduce the incidence of post-spinal anaesthetic headache.

J. M. K. SPALDING

A TEXTBOOK OF PSYCHOLOGY, By Donald Olding Hebb (Pp. xvi + 353; 102 figures, 40s.). Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1966.

Professor Hebb's theoretical contribution to psychology has long been appreciated but his gifts as a teacher are perhaps not so well known in Britain. This revised edition of his textbook, however, shows the care which he has devoted to the provision of a thorough grounding in physiological psychology.

It contains a brief description of the structure and function of the central nervous system, an excellent review of learning theory, and interesting data on motivation: the chapters on intelligence and emotion are less comprehensive. The range of discussion is wide, including an account of the refractory period of the neurone on the one hand and comments on altruism in the chimpanzee and in man on the other. Hebb does not omit data (*e.g.*, the fading phenomenon observed with solid figures) which cannot be explained by his own ingenious cell-assembly hypothesis, and, by his meticulous exposition of this and other topics, trains the reader in the use of the experimental method.

The student is explicitly helped to assimilate the main points in each chapter by a brief review and a few carefully-chosen references. The deceptive simplicity of the prose stems from the clarity of the thinking. The book, therefore, is an invaluable guide not only for students of psychology but also for medical practitioners and for specialists in related fields. It clears away many of the vague, philosophical generalisations that have for so long obscured the subject and gives it at once a more limited and a more exacting definition within the framework of the sciences.

FREDA NEWCOMBE

A MANUAL OF LABORATORY STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY By B. Heckman and R. Fried. (Pp. xiii + 207. 20s.) New York: Oxford University Press. 1965.

Thirty laboratory experiments in psychology, using students, rats, and children as subjects, requiring the minimum of equipment, and illustrating problems of learning, motivation, perception, personality, and maturation, are set out with full instructions and comments. Most laboratory courses have evolved over the years, and reflect the preferences and established habits of the organizer: those who have to introduce such a course should examine this book closely, for it is excellent in providing interest, instruction, and theoretical background.

R. T. C. PRATT

TRANSFORMATIONS Change from Learning to Growth By W. R. Bion. (Pp. 183. 25s.) London: William Heinemann. 1965.

This individual consideration of the processes involved in

psycho-analysis will be of great interest to those concerned with the nature and theory of the treatment: but it is not easy reading.

ADMINISTRATIVE THERAPY: THE ROLE OF THE DOCTOR IN THE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY By D. H. Clark. (Pp. xi + 160. 25s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1964. We are witnessing at the present time another of the periodic revolutions in attitude towards the chronic psychiatric patient. The authoritarian mental hospital produced in its inmates a reaction to its social structure that rendered them unfit to resume their place in the outside world. Administrative therapy aims to use our increasing knowledge of social science to provide a social structure that will enable patients to re-acquire the social skills of the outside world.

Dr. D. H. Clark's book is based on his own pioneering experiences at Fulbourn Hospital, and was written in a reflective year when a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioural Sciences at Stanford, California. It is a most excellent account of the philosophy and practice of administrative therapy, clearly written, illuminated by instances of difficulties encountered and overcome, enthusiastic, yet humble, and full of mature wisdom.

R. T. C. PRATT

MENTAL DEFICIENCY, 2nd ed. By L. T. Hilliard and B. H. Kirman. (Pp. viii + 714; 120 figures. 100s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1965.

The Mental Health Act (1959) has intervened between the first (1957) and second editions of this book: the consequent changes are, however, confined to matters of detail rather than outlook, since the work of the authors from the late Fountain Hospital determined in no small part the changes for mental deficiency enshrined in the Act. The whole field of mental deficiency is covered, including the pathological aspects (Crome), the increasing number of metabolic syndromes, and the problems of the adolescent and adult defective. The social aspects are considered by contributors who have themselves made great advances in the field, for example, education and training (Norris), employment (O'Connor), and psychological aspects (Tizard). Equal attention is paid to theoretical contributions, and to practical advice ('It is never justifiable to hurry when feeding a patient who has difficulty in swallowing'). This wide approach that has revolutionized the care of mental defectives is now described and documented in this excellent book, and the philosophy and practice of the authors again made available to wider audiences.

R. T. C. PRATT

SLOW, LATENT, AND TEMPERATE VIRUS INFECTIONS. NINDB MONOGRAPH No. 2. Edited by D. Carleton Gajdusek, Clarence J. Gibbs, Jr., and Michael Alpers. (Pp. 489; illustrated. \$6.75) U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (Public Health Service). 1965.

When in March, 1954, the late Dr. Björn Sigurdsson