

LIPIDS AND LIPIDOSES Edited by G. Schettler. (Pp. xiv + 622; 146 figures. DM 120. \$30.) Springer-Verlag: Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York. 1967.

This book is undoubtedly a mine of information and Dr. Schettler is to be congratulated in marshalling this team of experts for the production of what must surely become the standard reference book on the biochemistry of lipids and the biochemical, clinical, and pathological manifestations of the lipidoses for many years to come. It is however very much a reference book, certainly not for bedside reading; the frequent interruption of the text with lists of authors' names makes reading unnecessarily difficult and would have been best replaced by a numbered reference system. Even more difficult however is the use of initial letter abbreviations as those working outside this specialized field will surely find: GD, TSD, NPD, NPC, ML, HAP, and NANA, to select but a few at random, will constantly interrupt his train of thought while he makes a search for the meaning of the latest abbreviation.

The first half of the book on the biochemistry and physiology of the lipids is very much for the specialist, but the section on the lipidoses comprising some 360 pages of closely packed text will be of more general interest covering the clinical, biochemical, and therapeutic aspects of the hereditary disorders of lipid metabolism (but excluding for some obscure reason the syndrome of total lipodystrophy). The therapeutic implications are of unrelieved gloom and indeed these must be among the most depressing of inborn errors of metabolism for the clinician to manage; some of the names of these diseases are additionally unfortunate and the effect on parents can be imagined when they are told first that their child has a rapidly progressive disease and secondly that it is 'amaurotic family idiocy', AFI. Now that so much is known about the lipidoses one can only hope that this will eventually lead to more hopeful lines of work on the problems of management and perhaps a more logical approach to nomenclature.

The book is well produced, though the amount of text on each page is a little formidable. At the end of each chapter is an extensive bibliography.

J. M. WALSHE

ANAESTHESIA FOR NEUROSURGERY By R. G. B. Gilbert, G. F. Brindle, and A. Galindo. (Pp. xv + 213; illustrated. 85s.) J. & A. Churchill: London. 1966.

The authors have not attempted to consider all the techniques employed in anaesthesia for neurosurgery, but have confined themselves to discussing in detail the methods currently in use at the Montreal Neurological Institute. This they have done with clarity and the result, although not comprehensive, is stimulating, instructive, and of value to the postgraduate student. Hyperventilation is favoured in most situations; refinements in technique are described and great stress placed on meticulous attention to detail. The controversial use of the sitting position and controlled respiration for posterior fossae explorations will arouse interest—particularly the view that the E.C.G. tracing is of comparable value to respiratory monitoring in the early recognition of interference to the vital centres. The section on the

physiological and pharmacological principles involved in neuro-anaesthesia is informative. The numerous references are well chosen and commendably few errors are present in the text, though the suggestion (pages 125 and 126) that cortisone can be administered intravenously is misleading.

W. N. C. MCCLEERY

CLINICAL NEUROSURGERY Vol. 12. Proceedings of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Miami, Florida, 1964. (Pp xvii + 419, illustrated £5 12s.) Williams and Wilkins Company: Baltimore. 1966.

This volume contains papers given at a meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Miami, Florida, November 1964. Apart from three short papers read by their guest of honour, Dr. E. A. Kahn, the volume is devoted to head injuries. Practically every aspect of this subject is covered by writers of international repute and, though many are short and therefore necessarily superficial, this collection of papers must form an authoritative statement of opinion current at that time. Though the meeting was more than two years ago there has been little major advance since then. Inevitably there is some overlap, though this is minimal and generally serves to emphasize the unanimity of present-day opinion on the management of these cases. The level of treatment is also variable and some chapters are little more than textbook treatments of their subject, while others set a higher standard. The chapters on the non-surgical treatment of injuries and on cerebrospinal fluid rhinorrhoea by Mr. Walpole Lewin, on metabolic changes by Dr. R. A. McLaurin, on angiography by Dr. M. A. Schechter, and on penetrating injuries by Dr. A. M. Meirowsky could be selected for special mention.

BRODIE HUGHES

PARKINSON'S DISEASE By L. Oliver. (Pp. 69; 25 figures. 21s.) William Heinemann: London. 1967.

Mr. Oliver has been concerned with the surgical treatment of Parkinsonism for many years so that it is not surprising that over half of this small monograph is devoted to this particular aspect of the subject. He begins with a brief historical review and discusses the clinical features and medical treatment. He then reviews the various forms of operation which have been tried, from excision of the motor cortex to the more recent stereotaxic procedures. He describes in some detail the method he himself uses, and discusses his results and the possible complications. For the general practitioner or the general physician the detailed description of the surgical technique may not hold any great interest and the practising neurosurgeon might well not find enough information here for his needs. Leaving the question of technique aside, however, the physician with little experience of the subject will be able to discover what surgery may offer his patient with Parkinsonism.

ATLAS D'ANATOMIE STÉRÉOTAXIQUE DU TÉLÉNCÉPHALE. Études Anatomico-Radiologiques. By J. Talairach, G. Szilka and others. (Pp. 326; 61 figures, 169 tables. 260 F.) Masson et Cie: Paris. 1967.

The exploration of brain mechanisms in man by stereo-