Book reviews

NERVES AND NERVE INJURIES By Sydney Sunderland. (Pp. xv + 1161; illustrated. 250s.) Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1968.

Professor Sydney Sunderland's researches in relation to peripheral nerves and their injuries have adorned the pages of neurological journals for over 25 years, and his many admirers will be delighted to know of this monograph, which is by far the most comprehensive and authoritative work of its kind. Every neurologist, neurosurgeon and accident surgeon should have a copy, for he will often refer to its pages. This monograph provides the logical and impressive culmination to one facet of a life devoted to the advancement of knowledge and to the renown of Australian medicine.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

TECHNIQUE DE L'ENREGISTREMENT ÉLECTROENCÉPHALOGRAPHIQUE By M.-L. Hector. (Pp. xi + 205; 104 illustrations. F. 75). Masson et Cie: Paris. 1968.

The author is to be congratulated on producing an interesting and useful handbook for EEG recordists. Part I on the apparatus is written in elementary terms suitable for the beginner as an introduction to more advanced texts. Part II on recording-room practice, use of montages, and the standard examination of adults and children is excellent, reflecting extensive personal experience. Many experienced workers will spot valuable hints, particularly on the management of children. The final section on the interpretation of records and recognition, tracing, and cure of artefacts is very well done, but suitable for more sophisticated workers than Part I. One would endorse the repeated advice to continue recording for a reasonable time before stopping to correct apparent artefacts, and, indeed, the reviewer has to resist the temptation to quote many wise comments which are revealed only by careful reading. (Many of the most valuable are in the legends to illustrations). This section, and particularly the valuable atlas of 86 plates, is recommended to all workers in electroencephalography, medical as well as technical.

J. A. SIMPSON

ATLAS OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM IN MAN By Richard A. Miller and Ethel Burach. (Pp. 144; illustrated. 90s.) William & Wilkins: Baltimore. (Edinburgh agents: E. & S. Livingstone). 1968.

In this superbly produced atlas are presented 38 transverse sections of normal brain and spinal cord at selected levels from the sacral cord to the anterior commissure. In each the principal structures are clearly labelled and there is a short and mainly anatomical commentary, although function is also briefly mentioned. The sections, which are prepared by the Weigert method, have been most successfully differentiated to show the

maximum details of nerve fibre tracts and nuclear masses. The second half consists of 26 sagittal sections of brain-stem which help to build up a three-dimensional picture. Although principally intended for medical students, an atlas of such obvious quality will have a valued place on the bookshelves of those who are concerned with any aspect of the structure and function of the nervous system, both normal and abnormal.

R. W. ROSS RUSSELL

PROGRESS IN BRAIN RESEARCH Vol. 22. Brain reflexes. Edited by E. A. Asratyan. (Pp. xv + 600; illustrated. 255s.). Elsevier: Amsterdam/London/New York. 1968.

This book is the Proceedings of an International Conference held in Moscow dedicated to the centenary celebration of Sechenov's famous book of the same name which included an early recognition of bulbospinal inhibition. Three symposia were held: (a) 'brain reflexes' and central inhibition; (b) general principles of self-regulation in cortico-subcortical correlations; (c) evolutionary physiology of the nervous system and brain ontogenesis. This form of publication, which is becoming more common, has the advantage of bringing together a distinguished international panel, but has the disadvantage of publication at an arbitrary time on a nominal theme of work which might otherwise have matured in the cask. Some papers are published in this way which would normally be rejected by a regular journal, but on the other hand the reader is privileged to have access to the reasoning and speculation essential to the scientist which would be out of place in a formal paper. This collection of ephemera is very helpful to other workers in the field, but newcomers would do better with a systematic monograph. Western workers will welcome the opportunity to learn of the work of Soviet scientists, but few of their papers provide sufficient detail of experimental techniques and quantitative results to permit critical assessment.

This book is a good example of its kind and will interest all working on cerebral physiology. The English translation is adequate with occasional lapses such as 'crust' for 'cortex' and 'facilitation' would be better than 'exultation' if less felicitous.

J. A. SIMPSON

PAIN Edited by A. Soulairac, J. Cahn, and J. Charpentier. (Pp. xii + 562; illustrated. 126s.) Academic Press: London and New York. 1968.

This book contains the proceedings of a Symposium on Pain organized by the Psychophysiology Laboratory of the Paris Faculty of Sciences. Of its 550 pages, basic neurophysiology occupies about 110; experimental procedures in animals and methods of measuring pain 113; biochemical aspects of analgesia 70; pharmacology