nervous system. For those who are not accustomed to looking at electron microscopic pictures, it is sad that the plates in the chapter on ultrastructural aspects of infections in the central nervous system have not got more labels on the prints to indicate exactly what one is supposed to be looking at. However, the electron microscope prints throughout the book are of high quality. It is useful to have an instructive account on the role pleuro-pneumonia-like organisms may play in neurological disturbances and also an account of infections with histoplasma and cryptococcus. These latter infections are being more frequently diagnosed these days because of greater awareness of their existence. It is also nice to see a chapter on a much too neglected subject 'The Water and Electrolyte Shifts in the Central Nervous System'. A whole range of other infections are covered, mostly of viral aetiology. The fascinating problem of slow, latent, and temperate viruses is well covered, but this brings me to a criticism of the book. This whole field of investigation of infections of the central nervous system has been so rapidly advancing over the last five years that I find it disappointing that what was presented at a meeting in December 1964, should take till 1968 to be published. This must detract from the value of the book and, as the editor, Dr. H. M. Zimmerman, rather sadly comments at the beginning of the chapter on 'Vaccinia Virus Deoxyribonucleic Acid': 'It has not been brought up to date and, therefore, does not take into account the large amount of information which has been obtained during the intervening years as a result of the efforts of many workers in this rapidly developing field.'

This is a very well presented book and will be useful to both research workers and clinicians. There are excellent bibliographies to the chapters throughout. It would have been even more valuable published with less delay, even though it might have lost some of its 'finish' in the process.

H. E. WEBB

A MANUAL OF ELECTRONEUROMYOGRAPHY By Hyman L. Cohen and Joel Brumlik. (Pp. xi + 178; illustrated. \$10.50). Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row: New York. 1968.

A good handbook on electromyography and related techniques would be welcome. The senior workers in clinical neurophysiology have grown up with the subject and do not require one, but the new generation of neurologists, orthopaedists, and physical medicine workers do need a good summary of the present state of the art. There is an expanding literature in orthopaedic journals of papers using electromyographic techniques in an entirely uncritical way indicating ignorance of the basic principles. It is for that reason that the present book cannot be recommended. For the complete beginner it gives a step-by-step account of the methods used in electromyography, nerve conduction studies, and older forms of electrodiagnosis, but does not provide the information on neuromuscular physiology, volume conduction theory, and instrumentation to enable an isolated worker to interpret what he sees or even to use another manufacturer's equipment. The illustrations of myotonia

and myasthenia are not typical and the latter—which is used twice—suggests failure to ensure that the stimulus was supramaximal and that the hand was immobilized.

The techniques described are those of ten years ago. There is no information on averaging techniques, methods of quantitative electromyography, or even how to reduce the noise level. This is not the handbook we have been waiting for.

J. A. SIMPSON

LECTURE NOTES ON NEUROLOGY 2nd edn. By I. T. Draper. (Pp. ix + 231; illustrated. 22s. 6d.) Blackwell: Oxford and Edinburgh. 1968.

The second edition, three years after the first, speaks for the popularity of this little book. It is divided into three traditional parts: applied anatomy and physiology, bedside skills, and description of disease. The first two parts, for the purpose of this book, can hardly be faulted. Presumably it is read by undergraduates as a reminder of what they have already learnt, later on special occasions by them in practice, and by teachers of medicine wishing to revise quickly unaccustomed material for tutorials or lectures. For these purposes the book says enough and says it clearly. However, fears must be felt for a reader whose only source of neurological information this might be, and the dust jacket suggests that this might be the case. There is too little indication of the relative frequency of diseases and of their urgency, so that, by inference, the reader might believe that disseminated sclerosis was equalled numerically by syringomyelia or that giant-cell arteritis and vitamin B₁₂ neuropathy each carried no more alarm for the doctor than most neurology. To reproduce lecture notes for an already committed audience is one thing; to present them as an introduction is another and, with this volume, not without danger of distortion. There are surprising omissions, too, and ones that could be said to hide important principles and to withhold some of the difficulties of clinical life. For instance, the concept of transient ischaemia of the brain gets insufficient mention and the overwhelming importance of the psychological aspects of pain (particularly facial) are merely hinted at. This kind of deficiency makes for poor remembrancing and a misleading tutor. One understands that the confined space of this small volume demands economy of expression as well as pruning of material, but this should not be achieved at the expense of making such a frail vehicle for those whose journey in clinical neurology is to depend much on this book alone. If this is not possible within these narrow bounds, then let the space be more.

C. H. EDWARDS

CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALIES: PATHOGENESIS AND REPAIR Edited by J. J. Longacre. (Pp. xii + 389; illustrated. 170s.) Pitman Medical: London; and J. B. Lippincott: Philadelphia. 1969.

This well-illustrated and attractive book is based on papers presented at an international conference in May 1966. In the preface (unsigned) we are told, in that breathless prose which we have come to recognize, that it was 'the most stimulating, intense and provocative meeting they had ever attempted . . . a meeting of the

minds... for three days and nights' matters were 'explored' [three times in the first paragraph] and 'penetrated in depth'. There are 35 contributors, seven British. The meeting place is not disclosed; we can guess.

There are five parts to the book: (1) Aetiology; (2) Pathogenesis; (3) Cranial Anomalies; (4) Mandibulo-facial Dysostosis; (5) Cleft Lip and Palate. The illustrations are excellent and I have no doubt that plastic surgeons, anatomists, embryologists, dentists, orthodontists, and paediatricians will find it instructive and helpful.

There is not much in the book of interest to neurologists or neurosurgeons; an account of reconstruction after the separation of conjoined craniopagus twins, a description of craniosynostosis and reference to a number of strange syndromes characterized by various combinations of congenital malformations of the face, the eye or the ear, associated, for example, with facial paralysis, deafness, or the Klippel-Feil syndrome.

Little is known of the aetiology of these malformations, but several participants expressed the view that there is an increasing incidence of cleft lip and cleft palate in recent years. With the thalidomide tragedy in mind one authority concluded that during the first trimester of pregnancy no drugs of any kind, except vitamins, should be administered.

J. D. SPILLANE

HEPATOCEREBRAL DEGENERATION By Hirokazu Asao and Kiichi Oji. (Pp. xi + 243; 28 figures, 15 tables. \$7.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1968.

This book, one of the *American Lectures in Living Chemistry* series, is an account by two Japanese authors of disorders, other than Wilson's disease, associating hepatic and cerebral dysfunction. The authors refer to two so-called specific types of hepato-cerebral degeneration—the Inose type, and the pseudo-eulogyria type of Shiraki. This unfamiliar terminology serves only to confuse an already complex subject, but the former seems to correspond to what Western physicians would call hepatic coma and pre-coma, though the latter may possibly include several different conditions. Difficulty in identification is increased by the very poor English of the text, and one is forced at times to guess at the meaning of such phrases as 'trias in the late stadium' which is one feature of the pseudo-eulogyria type. The latter part of the book forms a useful review of the theories of hepato-cerebral disorders, and the potential for treatment based on these theories. It is certainly a useful and unusual source of reference to Far-Eastern literature.

SURGERY FOR CEREBROVASCULAR INSUFFICIENCY (STROKE): WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CAROTID ENDARTERECTOMY By J. E. Thompson. (Pp. vii + 96; 34 figures, 16 tables. \$9.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1968.

This is a clear account of carotid endarterectomy and its surgical treatment written by a vascular surgeon who has performed almost 600 carotid endarterectomies.

The goal of surgical therapy, states the author with simple candour, is to increase the cerebral blood flow and by doing so prolong life, relieve symptoms, prevent strokes, and improve neurological deficits if possible.

Armed with this simple philosophy and unburdened by the doubts which might assail a physician or physiologist he describes the technical aspects with admirable clarity. There is also a helpful chapter on practical management. The succeeding chapters in which he presents the results of operations are unfortunately much less satisfactory, and some figures—for example, the proportion of frank strokes restored to normal after carotid operations—are so unusual as to require further explanation. Insufficient clinical criteria are given for the large group of patients designated as improved. The critical reader will also be disturbed that successful operation in complete carotid occlusion is judged by good backflow and few post-operative angiograms were done. In a number of these cases the artery may have thrombosed again in the post-operative period. Lesions of the vertebral and subclavian arteries are scarcely mentioned.

Although this is an attractively produced and readable book, it adds little to existing knowledge on the subject and its approach is too uncritical to be recommended as a work of surgical scholarship.

EPILEPSY (Contemporary Neurology Series, No. 2). By Richard Penrose Schmidt and B. Joe Wilder. (Pp. viii + 220; illustrated. 47s.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford. 1968.

This book provides a competent account of existing knowledge. The authors have made a special study of some aspects of experimental epilepsy, but it is disappointing to find so little evidence that such studies are adding new knowledge or suggesting new approaches to the study of epilepsy.

DIE EPILEPSIEN Spezielle Pathologie und Therapie. By Dieter Janz. (Pp. xv + 554, illustrated. DM. 118.00.) Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1969.

This is a formidable volume which presents an analysis of a vast clinical experience with numerous case records and some excellent clinical photographs. The current problems regarding the physiological problems of epilepsy receive scant consideration.

ATLAS DES MITTEL-UND ZWISCHENHIRNS DES KANINCHENS (ATLAS OF THE MES AND DIENCEPHALON OF THE RABBIT) By L. Gerhard. (Pp. vii + 184; 64 figures. DM 178.00; \$44.50.) Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York. 1968.

This lavish atlas of the mesencephalon and diencephalon of the rabbit is intended to supplement Meesen and Olszewski's (1949) atlas of the rabbit's medulla and pons. It contains photographs of 52 sections, some stained for cells and others for myelinated fibres: 28 are frontal, nine horizontal, and 15 sagittal. The legends are in German and English. The plates are followed by about 50 pages of regional description in German, and by a useful anatomical bibliography, also regionally arranged.

The introduction states that 'All details for stereotactic measurements of the rabbit brain may be found in the literature', and the bibliography refers to the paper by Sawyer, Everett, and Green (1954) which gives co-ordinates for the rabbit's diencephalon. Since many would have wished to consult this new atlas when