One problem of a book of this kind is that repetition occurs, but in a field which has moved so quickly no one has a prerogative of truth and different authors' views of the likely role of insufficiency and embolism in the causation of transient ischaemic attacks or the place of anticoagulants in treatment are valuable. It was interesting to know that Dr. Ross Russell now takes the view that 'blockage produced by platelet thrombus is so transient and its breakup so rapid that it must be doubted if permanent cerebral ischaemic damage is ever produced'.

The ingenuity of surgeons inevitably excites praise with adventurous use of bypasses and shunts but the usefulness of operating upon an occluded or mildly stenosed carotid has yet to be given full justification. This is a valuable review of progress so far in this expanding field.


The cerebral circulation forms the most obvious multidisciplinary growth point in clinical neurology in the last decade. Since neuroradiological developments made it possible to diagnose vascular lesions in life and surgical advances made it possible to treat a variety of these lesions, it has become important to consider the various experimental investigations being carried out in this field. Many of these are now being translated to the clinical sphere and this is a field in which, to date, Europe has a clear lead over North America. Two sets of European conferences have emerged, one initiated by the Scandinavian centres and the other the Salzburg meetings of which this is the third report. While the Scandinavian conferences have succeeded by ruthless editing and local publication to have the proceedings out within a few months, the Salzburg meetings have not been so fortunate; the 1964 meeting was published in 1966 and this present report comes three years after the 1966 meeting. The relevance of this is obvious in a field expanding as rapidly as this one.

This volume is nonetheless of great interest, comprising mostly short reports on experimental or clinical observations and the discussion which followed them. There is an increasing number of clinical contributions showing the upsets in cerebral circulation around various lesions, but the clinical application of these observations is not yet entirely clear. This book begins with a masterly review of the whole clinical problem of cerebrovascular insufficiency by Professor Zulch, with 176 references. The American editor (Meyer) describes this text of 400 pages, costing $11, as 'this little book'; he now resides in Texas, and it would be interesting to know what he regards as a big book.


This small book presents a review of various aspects of cerebral palsy as seen by the staff of the Centre for Spastic Children, Cheyne Walk.

Dr. John Foley gives a lucid account of his views on the nature of cerebral palsy, its 'physical aspects' and 'associated disorders'. Dr. Grace E. Woods gives a somewhat less lucid account of the 'causes' of cerebral palsy. Dr. Fisch again emphasizes the importance of recognizing hearing loss in children who suffer from cerebral palsy. The difficulties in the 'assessment of vision in young children with cerebral palsy' are very well described by Dr. G. C. Pritchard, while the 'psychological aspects' of cerebral palsy are summarized by Dr. Agatha H. Bowley in a chapter which is, in many ways, a model of what a summary chapter designed for sophisticated and unsophisticated readers should be. Other chapters describe the techniques of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and teaching used in the Cheyne Walk School.

It is difficult to know for whom the book was written. In the preface Miss Blencowe says that 'A minimum of technical terms has been used so that it should be suitable for those who may not have had a medical training such as teachers, social workers, housemothers and nursery nurses as well as doctors and therapists. It is also hoped that parents will be helped by it'. Admittedly there is a glossary but it is very doubtful if some of the chapters would be intelligible to the average parent, and they are likely to find the chapters on therapy very baffling. On the other hand therapists, teachers, social workers, and doctors who work with children suffering from cerebral palsy every day are unlikely to find anything new or particularly rewarding in this book. The bibliography is inadequate. It is easier to understand the impulses which made people write it than to conceive of uses to which it will be put.

T. T. S. INGRAM


There are only two chapters in this volume which may be of interest to neurologists: a review of the subject of fluorescein fundus photography and a paper (in French) on the ocular signs of vertebro-basilar insufficiency.

In the review (by Ferrer), the development of the subject is traced from its origin in 1960 to 1965 and there, is no reference to work after this date, which is a pity in a volume of this sort. The paper by Rosselet on vertebrobasilar insufficiency is a long one, taking up over 40 pages. There is an introductory section covering anatomy and physiology, followed by an analysis of 36 cases studied angiographically.

The ocular manifestations most commonly seen were hemianopias, (complete or incomplete); sympathetic paralysis; nystagmus; and disturbances of ocular movement—findings which are not unexpected.


This is very much a supplement to Atlas I and of very
limited value on its own. The first 37 figures are myelin preparations of transverse sections of spinal cord, medulla, pons, and mid-brain. These are unlabelled.

Figures 38 to 52 are myelin preparations of the right cerebral hemisphere reproduced from Jelgersma. This is the most valuable section of the book as the gyri in most figures are labelled, unlike the original. The remaining nine figures are useful line drawings on which the levels and planes of the preceding sections are indicated, and a few labelled myelin preparations of horizontal and sagittal sections of the cerebral hemispheres.

MARION C. SMITH


Professor Janzen has written a book on neurology which is different. His object has been to condense his experience in clinical neurology and neurophysiology to produce a companion to neurological studies. Owing to its synoptic and dogmatic writing it is not an easy book to read, as the author admits. In fact, in the introduction he gives instructions as to how the book ought best to be used. In point of fact, the volume contains a concentrated account of the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the nervous system, followed by a discussion of neurological symptoms and syndromes, the neurological examination, ancillary methods of investigation, and finally a classification of the neurological diseases. The emphasis throughout is on the logic of neurological diagnosis and treatment and those who can read German will find it an interesting and stimulating new approach to clinical neurology.

J. B. STANTON

ÉPANCHEMENTS SOUS-DURAX CHRONIQUES DU NOURRISON

This is a useful review of subdural effusion in infancy, a term preferred by the authors to subdural haematoma and others, as they reject the widely accepted osmotic theory in favour of abnormal permeability of dural vessels. In their experience the most common first cause is traumatic, but other causes are discussed. For diagnosis they depend largely on transillumination, subdural encephalography, and EEG, having only limited experience of echo-encephalography and isotope scan techniques. Treatment is conventional. The numbers reviewed in each aetiological category are too small to permit a definitive statement on prognosis.

J. A. SIMPSON


This volume provides a comprehensive and up-to-date review of the modern knowledge regarding the progressive muscular dystrophies. The various chapters deal with the clinical picture, the pathological histology, electron microscope appearances, biochemistry, and treatment of the hereditary dystrophies and there are also sections on the distal and ocular forms and on myotubular, central core, and nemaline myopathies. The final chapter on clinical electromyography also includes the EMG findings in polymyositis and endocrine and metabolic myopathies. There is an excellent bibliography at the end of each chapter and the book, which is well produced, will be most valuable for German-speaking readers.


Advances in operative surgery have almost always followed the introduction of some technique or equipment which was applicable in a wide range of situations. Anaesthesia, asepsis, blood transfusion, and electro-coagulation all served to transform the whole surgical scene. The '50s saw stereotaxis give neurosurgery a new dimension, and since then many surgeons have devoted time and energy to developing new machines for this 'blind' surgery. The '60s will go down as the beginning of microneurosurgery. Perhaps because it is a development of 'seeing' surgery, and, therefore, not so distinctly different from ordinary surgery, many neurosurgeons have been slow to see its advantages and have left it to the otologists, already familiar with the microscope, to begin invading the intracranial cavity up the nose and down the ear. The microscope calls for learning a new technique, and for a time at least puts the eight or ten hour neurosurgical operation back on the scene, just when the neurosurgeon had begun to live down the legendary theatre marathons of the 1930s. Yet the rewards of patience are considerable—indeed, they are what the neurosurgeon has always wanted, a method of being more discriminating in the sacrifice of functioning nervous tissue. The need to preserve function is what has always distinguished the neurosurgeon, who might sometimes envy the cavalier sacrifices safely made by his colleagues in removing legs, joints, and abdominal viscera with impunity. The microscope greatly enhances the neurosurgeon's ability to recognize functionally valuable structures, and so to preserve them. But not only a new technique, with new instruments, must be learnt but also a new anatomy—termed mesoscopic anatomy by one of the contributors to this book.

It is good to see this book written entirely by neurosurgeons, and their colleagues should read it. It begins at the beginning—with a description of the microscope and its care, and the instruments that go with it. It goes through the uses already made of it: acoustic neuromas, pituitary surgery, microvascular repair (mostly experimental so far), trigeminal rhizotomy, and spinal cord surgery. There are plenty of references, mostly dating from 1964 to 1967, although these should soon be out of date if the field expands as it promises to do.

W. BRYAN JENNELL