sophisticated neurological circles faced a problem. In this edition it is clear that it is intended to provide a much more comprehensive reference work. At the time of his death Lord Brain had started on the revision, but the main work fell to Professor Walton. His task must have been difficult as he was required to change the purpose of the book while retaining the character of the original. He has performed this feat extremely well, especially in the new chapter on disorders of muscle, but will undoubtedly wish to impose more of his own progressive ideas in future editions.

The section on sensation leaves a lot unsaid; the cerebellum is pre-Eccles, and the instructions for confrontation perimetry perpetuate the standard description which defies the laws of physics. Modern neurology needs more reference material on CSF globulin and less about the Lange curve; and surely every neurologist should now know the elementary facts about the normal EEG. The section on the use of EEG, echo and scan in diagnosis of cerebral tumour is quite useless. A book with international circulation should not use proprietary names for drugs.

It is good to see mark VII of an old friend. It has abandoned humble clay. Will a future edition establish it in orbit? Professor Walton could do it, but if the book is tested by sampling areas of special interest it is clear that an advanced reference book requires multiple authorship.

J. A. SIMPSON


Previous editions of Professor Illingworth’s book on infant and child development have been deservedly popular with paediatricians, and have contained much material of interest to those neurologists who are concerned with the diagnosis and management of neurological disorders in childhood. This new edition, like its predecessors, is notable for its clarity; it is well illustrated and each chapter ends with a list of references, many to papers and monographs which have been published since the third edition appeared. The book is arranged logically, it makes easy reading, and it is excellent value for money. The chapters on reflexes and reactions, on the assessment of the newborn, and on the diagnosis of cerebral palsies deserve special praise. Despite its comparative brevity, and one or two omissions, particularly in relation to inborn errors of metabolism which may be associated with mental retardation, the author has generally avoided over-simplification and excessive dogmatism and the book can be confidently recommended as a clear and simple review of a complex topic.

JOHN N. WALTON


This book, formerly by Strong and Elwyn, has reached its sixth edition because it so exactly meets the requirements of clinicians. The authors have selected their material to provide a reasonably comprehensive textbook for those medical students who read neuroanatomy as an elective subject in the new curricula, and have borne in mind the requirement of residency training programmes in neurology. British teaching is moving in the same direction—basic integrated programme with elective courses. This book is admirable for its purpose. A particular feature is its illustration of the anatomical basis of clinical syndromes.

Students who find difficulty naming spinal tracts will note that even Homer may nod (Figure 13-12 legend).

J. A. SIMPSON


This monograph is a follow-up study of head injured patients 25 years after injury. The cases are drawn from those treated in the Oxford Head Injury Centre during the second world war and comprise 97 patients who had localized injuries of the cerebral hemispheres. The injuries were graded according to the estimated amount of brain tissue loss, depth of wound, and localization in the hemisphere. They were all subjected to a battery of tests designed to test intelligence and problem solving, various verbal tasks, and visual pattern identification and spatial orientation. The results of these tests were then subjected to statistical analysis.

The results, in brief, tended to confirm established theory concerning cerebral hemisphere function. The group did not show any intellectual loss or, indeed, deviation from a normal control group. Most left hemisphere patients showed some verbal defect, although this was usually not apparent clinically, and right hemisphere lesions showed defects in visual pattern identification and spatial orientation.

Brain injuries are not ideal cases for assessing localized cerebral function, for although areas of gross and localized damage can be estimated, there is no means of identifying the amount of general cerebral damage that always occurs in such injuries. Nevertheless, this work has filled a gap in providing information on a closely controlled test process, and will serve as a reference source for all future work on head injuries. The work is nicely produced and clearly written and should be read by all concerned in the treatment of head injured patients.

BRODIE HUGHES


Autogenic training has been defined as ‘a deliberate effort of will directed upon one’s own psychic and somatic life, through first inducing a change in consciousness and then, through auto-suggestion, a state of “complete inward self-relaxation”’. It bears an obvious resemblance to the techniques of Yoga and has attracted some attention, especially in the German-speaking world, following the publication of J. H. Schultz’s book on the subject in 1932. These three very expensive volumes are part of an expanded American edition of the original text. The first volume is concerned with methods; the