by a nerve impulse was derived from a single synaptic vesicle. Finally, the classical concept of the motor unit in healthy muscle being composed of subunits has recently (1968) been disproved. Notwithstanding these relatively minor criticisms the book can be strongly recommended and should certainly be compulsory reading for neurologists. In particular it should prove of considerable value to the generation of clinicians mentioned by Professor Simpson in the foreword, who have not grown up with the vast amount of electro-diagnostic information revealed by technical and conceptual advances.

APHASIOLOGY AND OTHER ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE By Macdonald Critchley. (Pp. ix + 405; illustrated; £9.) Edward Arnold: London. 1970.

Seldom has a medical book given me so much pleasure. Here are 31 essays which Dr. Critchley had prepared for various special occasions and, reprinted here, they reflect the breadth of his interests and the elegance of his style. Although the primary title concerns the study of the central disorders of speech, much of this fascinating book is concerned with 'other aspects of language'. The similarities and contrasts between English and other modern languages; demotic speech and regional accent; communication between animals; the origins of speech and the philosophy of language are among the subjects which he explores.

This is not a textbook on the management of aphasia. It is a book to read in the quietness of one's room and as such it will stimulate the imagination and give great enjoyment.

I. T. DRAPER

BING'S LOCAL DIAGNOSIS IN NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES. 15th edition By Webb Haymaker. (Pp. xiii + 600; illustrated, 292s.). Henry Kimpton: London. 1969.

Of the monographs on the anatomy and function of the human nervous system as the basis for localizing diagnosis in neurological disease, this book is by far the best. It is nearly 60 years since Bing published his *Kompendium* and the work has undergone many changes since then. It is now the work of Dr. Haymaker and his collaborators, though some of the original material remains. As it is 12 years since the last edition in English, the book will be less familiar to juniors than it should be. It is costly but worth every penny. Naturally a reviewer will disagree with some points, but for the most part the teaching is orthodox and contemporary. Few in Great Britain would consider that the 'extensor' toe reflex is an anomaly in the flexor withdrawal reflexes. The least useful chapters are those on EMG, EEG, and other diagnostic methods additional to the clinical examination. Short condensations are rarely helpful and often misleading. But for the correlation between anatomy and physical signs this book is quite excellent.

J. A. SIMPSON

THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM: An Introduction to Basic and Clinical Concepts. By Otto Appenzeller. (Pp. xi + 238; 105s.). North-Holland: Amsterdam, 1970.

Books upon clinical aspects of the autonomic nervous system are few and this subject also receives scant con-

sideration in most textbooks. Nevertheless physicians now recognize that many patients may present with disorders arising from its dysfunction. These include orthostatic hypotension, which occurs commonly in elderly people, and accidental hypothermia, which was highlighted as an emergency of frequent occurrence by the Report of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1966. The introduction of L-dopa in the treatment of Parkinsonism has made neurologists very aware of autonomic dysfunction in this and other disorders, both before and after treatment.

Dr. Appenzeller sets out to provide an introduction to basic and clinical concepts and provides a good background for anatomical reading and also comparative anatomy. His book is less adequate on the physiology of the system and some of the tables and figures are unhelpful. For example, Table 1 in chapter 2 occupies a whole page without adequate explanation. Nevertheless Dr. Appenzeller writes from a wide experience and his book brings together much useful information.

It must be unusual for a reviewer to have to comment upon the scope of a book with such a definite title. J. N. Langley wrote in *The Journal of Physiology* 'I propose the term "autonomic nervous system" for the sympathetic system and the allied nervous system of the cranial and sacral nerves and for the local nervous system of the gut'. Neurologists will therefore be surprised to find chapters upon sleep and wakefulness, respiration, disturbances of water and electrolyte balance, circadian rhythms, and the pineal gland. A more useful breakdown might have been made on a clinical basis. For example, it is unhelpful for a clinician to find that disorders of sweating are mixed with no textual division between anhidrosis and hyperhidrosis.

In spite of these somewhat carping comments, Dr. Appenzeller is to be congratulated on producing a useful work of reference. It will be of value to those developing an interest in a section of neurology which has been much neglected.

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