An introductory chapter entitled concept, classification, and nosology of the leucodystrophies traces the development of thought in this complex group, quoting the original contributions and providing a full bibliography. There is a 30 page chapter on the biochemistry of normal lipid metabolism. There is a well-illustrated section on the electron microscopy of the lipidoses. This is proving to be particularly fruitful as the large lipoprotein molecules can now be identified visually.

The recent advances in molecular biology and lipid and protein chemistry have introduced pathological concepts of numbing complexity. The editors have given appropriate prominence to the chemical pathology, yet have maintained a conscious awareness of the clinician's experience, facilities, and role. The clinical applications are pre-eminent, yet the underlying neurochemistry presents a satisfying intellectual challenge.

IVAN T. DRAPER

ATLAS OF CEREBRAL ANGIOGRAPHY By Takayoshi Nomura. (Pp. 322; illustrated; \$22.50.) Igaku Shoin: Tokyo, and Springer: Berlin. 1970.

After a discussion of technique there is a 38 page section which describes with the aid of 17 diagrams the normal and pathological anatomy. This is followed by the atlas section which is flanked at each end by three foldout inserts showing the normal appearances alongside explanatory line drawings. This arrangement enables immediate comparison of the normal with any of the 212 full page illustrations. The detail of the illustrations is generally good, although the author's method of performing angiography is almost primitively simple.

Parts of the book are tiresome to read and difficult to understand because of the misuse of words. For example, on page 22 one reads; 'Chiefly it runs obliquely from the anteriorly downward and to the posteriorly upward, but occasionally takes the figure which turns back to descend.' The selection of cases appears to be rather unbalanced; thus in a large section on vascular diseases it is surprising to find no illustration of the frequently encountered collateral circulation via the maxillary and ophthalmic arteries. In the last section, the summaries of the clinical findings in the 117 cases illustrated do not contain sufficient morbid anatomical detail. There are 237 references.

J. LESLIE STEVEN

NEUROELECTRIC RESEARCH: Electroneuroprosthesis, electroanesthesia and nonconvulsive electrotherapy. Edited by David V. Reynolds and Anita E. Sjöberg. (Pp. 466; illustrated; \$27.25.) Thomas: Springfield.

This volume contains 45 papers selected from the 1969 conference of the Neuroelectric Society. The subjects range from the history of electrotherapy to tactile television, electroanaesthesia, electrosleep, and measurement of current distribution paths in the brain. Science, pseudoscience, and mumbo-jumbo are intermingled throughout, and it is quite an interesting exercise sorting out one from another. The danger of this kind of collection is that some good ideas are lost in electro-confusion, to coin yet another new term.

R. G. WILLISON

LECTURE NOTES ON NEUROLOGY 3rd ed. By Ivan T. Draper. (Pp. 231; £1.50.) Blackwell: Oxford.

Dr. Draper's third edition of *Lecture Notes on Neurology* is a good book, reasonably priced, and clearly one to be recommended to students. It is not too long and is well written. It is a successful book and it would surprise me very much if Dr. Draper did not have the opportunity of producing many more editions.

There are a number of small points on which critical comment is necessary and which in subsequent editions the author might consider altering. There is an implication on p.16 that unsteadiness, worse when the eyes are closed, must be due to a posterior column lesion. The difficult problem of explaining the action of extra-ocular muscles is dealt with not very clearly and the figure (Figure 12) illustrating movements, though correct, could be confusing and, unfortunately, it is repeated as Figure 24 later in the book.

The pathology of tabes is described as involving destruction of the posterior root ganglion 'nerve cell bodies'. Most authorities seem agreed that such loss of cells as may be present is not enough to account for the degeneration in the posterior columns. In the section on syringomyelia it is a pity that recent ideas on the aetiology were not included, particularly in view of the therapeutic possibilities.

C. J. EARL

THE TRAUMATIC AMNESIAS By W. Ritchie Russell. (Pp. ix + 84; illustrated; £2.00.) Oxford Neurological Monographs. Oxford University Press: London. 1971.

Professor Ritchie Russell's monograph maintains the high standard and high degree of interest established by the other contributors to this series. His early work, founded on detailed studies of head-injured patients was published in the early 1930s. Since then he has gone on to develop his concepts of memory, learning, and amnesia in the light of experience and expanding biological knowledge. Some of the earlier papers are no longer easily available; annotated extracts from these, together with more recent contributions, are presented in this volume.

The style is literate and the content memorable.

IVAN T. DRAPER

VENTRICULOCISTERNOSTOMY: Long term experiences. By R. C. Cantu, J. J. Michelson, and J. C. White. (Pp. 138, 23 figures; \$12.25.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1970.

This monograph contains a detailed description of a series of 54 patients treated by Torkildsen's ventriculocisternostomy. Thirty-nine of the patients were operated on because a neoplasm was obstructing the circulation of the cerebrospinal fluid; the longest survival in this group was 17 years. The good results obtained in nine patients with benign aqueduct stenosis are reported; the longest postoperative follow-up in this group is 27 years in a man who was aged 21 at the time of his operation.

A chapter by Dr. Paul New discusses and illustrates the radiological findings with great clarity. The authors stress the importance of first-class radiological studies in case selection by warning that a Torkildsen shunt will fail when the subarachnoid spaces are blocked - for