are concerned with the objective basis of the neurological examination, whether in children or in adults.

J. B. P. STEPHENSON

DIE CEREBRALEN ENTMARKUNGSKRANKHEITEN IM KINDE-SALTER DIFFUSE HIRNSKLEROTEN The Cerebral Demyelinating Diseases in Childhood. By Jurg Ulrich. Neurology Series Vol. 6. (Pp. 186; illustrated; \$20.40.) Springer: Berlin.

There has been an increasing interest in this group of diseases in the last two decades. They are genetically determined, occur in early childhood or infancy, and are invariably fatal. A link between these diseases and disseminated sclerosis in the adult is perhaps the great incentive which spurs research workers on in the investigation of these diseases whose riddle is slowly giving way to refined methods of biochemistry and electron-microscopy.

We know that metachromatic leucodystrophy is due to the faulty accumulation in the nervous system of sulphatide because an enzyme-sulphatase is lacking. The diagnosis can now be made with accuracy during the child's life-time by biopsy of a peripheral nerve. The defect in sulphatase can also be determined. In Krabbe's disease there appears to be a lack of sulphatide because its construction out of cerebroside and sulphate groups has been rendered impossible. The term 'Schilder's disease' is now to be dropped entirely, for it obscured the multiplicity of diseases which are to be recognized.

The author of this monograph has marshalled all the recent scientific discoveries about the demyelinating diseases in nine chapters dealing with each disease from the clinical, chemical, and pathological points of view. Added to this, there is a Table giving the outstanding features of published, and the author's own, cases in a precise and useful manner.

Since these are rare cases, the monograph is likely to have its main use as a work of reference, and as such, it is to be highly recommended.

The value of the monograph is enhanced by exhaustive literature references, and some instructive illustrations.

J. SCHORSTEIN

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: A Disease Acquired in Childhood By J. H. D. Millar. (Pp. xvii + 98; 6 figures; 17 tables; \$7.50.) American Lecture Series No. 800. Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1971.

This volume, in the usual format of the series, is a concise and up-to-date account of the epidemiological studies carried out by Dr. Millar and colleagues in Northern Ireland, placed in the context of similar studies elsewhere. The time is opportune as the era of static populations is fast disappearing. Dr. Millar reports that there is a significantly greater risk of developing multiple sclerosis in rural areas than in an industrial city. Considering various hypotheses to account for this, the author favours infection in childhood, by an unidentified organism (possible measles virus) with delayed immunological reactions which may be genetically determined. He reviews the biochemical findings and considers that the

reported changes are secondary. Dietary factors may be contributory but a trial (in London and Belfast) of treatment with oral linoleic acid was inconclusive. Treatment with ACTH, immunosuppressive drugs, and symptomatic management are discussed. The bibliography is well selected.

In a short space Dr. Millar has made a bold attempt to combine existing epidemiological, pathological, and experimental data in a unifying hypothesis which carries with it the prospect of ultimate preventative measures. He makes a good case. The book is recommended reading which most will want to have in their bookcase.

J. A. SIMPSON

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SPINAL ANESTHESIA By P. C. Lund. (Pp. 874; illustrated; \$37.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1971.

For the past 20 years spinal analgesia in this country has been little practised due to the remote but definite possibility or neurological sequelae and the resulting medico-legal consequences. More recently, however, the technique has been reappraised and more frequently employed. This in part has been due to a more balanced view being taken of the advantages of the technique in some clinical situations when weighed against the risks of alternative procedures. The present position would seem to be that, provided the anaesthetist uses every care and exercises all the skill expected of him, the technique is acceptable if there is an indication in a particular patient.

This textbook provides all the relevant information on drugs and methods on which the anaesthetist can build a faultless technique. It commences with a historical review of the whole subject and goes on to discuss in a most lucid fashion the relevant anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and available equipment. The indications and, of course, complications are rightly given a considerable prominence in the text but, more importantly, the avoidance of complications is treated at considerable length. Overall, this is an excellent and well-illustrated book which should find a place on many anaesthetists' shelves, whether they are regular or occasional employers of what is deservedly becoming a more popular technique.

ALEX. C. FORRESTER

NECKACHE AND BACKACHE Edited by E. S. Gurdjian and L. M. Thomas. (Pp. xi + 231; illustrated; \$8.00.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1970.

This book records most of the proceedings of a workshop on the subjects of its title held in Detroit. The fact that this is the published record of a 'live' conference is shown by a few typographical errors and by the informality of style of some of the remarks.

The best chapters include an initial general review by Dr. Gurdjian, a description of bone changes with age, the metabolic abnormalities of bone disease, a study of neck injuries in volunteers and in human cadavers (including experiments using a crash simulator). Dr. Wickstrom and his colleagues report on some fascinating data on experimental hyperextension and hyperflexion injuries, and Dr. Earl Walker's excellent clinical review of head and neck injuries with an intriguing emphasis on stresses of the medullo-spinal junction in the genesis of