does not appear in the bibliography). One misses discussions of more modern techniques such as the use of radioactively labelled substances for studying, say, the morphogenesis of the nervous system. This 'out-of-date' impression is strengthened by a look at the bibliography: one chapter chosen at random has 81 references to papers written before 1960 and 18 to papers written since then. Twelve pounds seems rather a lot to pay for a textbook which badly needs a new edition.

SABINA J. STRICH

HEREDITARY SENSORY RADICULAR NEUROPATHY By David C. Wallace. Mervyn Archdall Medical Monograph No. 8. (Pp. 114; illustrated; price not stated.) Australian Medical Association: Sydney. 1970.

The author of this monograph is a medical geneticist at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane. It is based on his study of a very large family of whom he was able to trace more than 400 members. There were at least 42 individuals who had suffered from the disease and he personally examined 25 of them. There was one adequate necropsy. He found that the disease was inherited as a Mendelian dominant, completely penetrant in men, but incompletely so in women.

Data on eight generations were discovered. The majority were of short stature, many were athletic, one winning an Olympic Gold Medal. There was a great variation in the age of onset, rate of progression and severity of the disease. In about one in 10 cases there was motor involvement; muscular weakness and wasting. In others, motor nerve conduction studies were abnormal at a stage when there was no clinical evidence of motor involvement. Sensory loss was of glove and stocking distribution, usually dissociated, and not radicular in type. It was often present for many years before any trophic changes appeared. Deafness, when it occurred, proved to be due to hereditary otosclerosis and not to perceptive loss, as in the families described by Denny-Brown and Van Bogaert.

He speculates on the possible role of exposure to a cold environment, the effects of trauma, and the development of the characteristic and often mutilating trophic changes.

The genetic aspects of this large family are described in detail. There are some summarized case histories, a bibliography but no index.

This is the largest family with this disease that has been described and it certainly deserved documentation.

J. D. SPILLANE

FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY By Kenneth A. Kooi. (Pp. 271; 98 figures; \$12.95.) Harper and Row: New York. 1971.

This book has merits. It errs on the side of being brief, it is well written and produced, and is up-to-

date in the fields that have particular interest to the author. Part I, dealing with basic electricity, instrumentation, and the biophysics of recording, is too short to be useful and is not more than an expanded glossary. Part II discusses the basis of EEG interpretation and is particularly good on spontaneous and evoked activity as recorded from the human scalp. It is disappointing to find no discussion of corticography, depth recording, and experimental epilepsy, although some review articles are referred to. The remainder of the text covers the main clinical conditions for which the EEG is used and the illustrations are well chosen. The sections dealing with paediatric and psychiatric disorders could, however, be expanded. The general impression is of a balanced discussion of all the subjects covered. The book will be useful for the many who need an introduction to the EEG as it is practised today, but who do not need to go very deeply into its problems.

J. A. V. BATES

ÉTUDE EXPÉRIMENTALE DE L'HYPERRÉFLEXIE TENDINEUSE EN CLINIQUE NEUROLOGIQUE By Paul J. Delwaide. (Pp. 324; 69 figures, price not stated.) Collection *Médico-Monographies d'Agrégés* Éditions Arscia: Brussels. 1971.

From Liège, Dr. Delwaide reports his careful studies on hyperreflexic states using well-known techniques such as H-wave facilitation-inhibition curves, vibratory and sinusoidal stretch stimulation of muscles. His findings in spastic states are in general agreement with those of other workers but his interpretation of inhibitory phenomena differs from that of the Australian school. As so much apparent disagreement in this field of clinical neurophysiology depends on apparently minor details of technique, it is valuable to have this monograph which provides the necessary detail.

This valuable book underlines the move away from the monosynaptic reflex by physiologists interested in muscle tone and its reflex control. The author draws attention to the importance of presynaptic group Ia afferent fibres in regulating the excitability of stretch reflexes.

J. A. SIMPSON

FUNCTIONAL NEUROANATOMY By N. B. Everett assisted by John W. Sundsten and Raymond D. Lund. 6th edn. (Pp. x+357, illustrated, £6.5.) Kimpton: London. 1971.

Dr. Everett took over the editorship of Buchanan's *Functional Neuroanatomy* in 1965 and has now produced his second (the 6th) edition of this book. He has retained the valuable concept of tracing the nerve tracts and pathways throughout the substance of the nervous system. The original spidery drawings of Professor Buchanan's day have been supplemented by bold new illustrations and a number of photographs of brain sections have been introduced