ATLAS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN By Donald H. Ford and J. P. Schade. (Pp. 233; illus.; price not stated.) Elsevier: Amsterdam. 1971.

The first 50 pages of this atlas are devoted to a clear and concise account of the principal anatomical features of the brain, its blood supply, and an outline of its functional mechanisms. This is followed by a detailed and comprehensive series of lavishly and clearly labelled black and white photographs of the gross anatomy of the brain. As these illustrations attain a high standard, one readily understands why the authors did not have to resort to diagrams to demonstrate some of the more complex anatomical features of the base of the brain and of the brain-stem. As these regions are photographed from many angles, this atlas should be of considerable value to the trainee neurosurgeon. There is then a conventional series of excellent illustrations of Weigert-Pal preparations; the only omission, which one hopes might be rectified in future editions, is a series of stained sections of the basal ganglia in the coronal plane. Neuroanatomists in general, however, tend not to appreciate the value of such a series to clinicians and pathologists. Finally, the terminology is just a little frustrating: this is based on standard anatomical nomenclature but surely we are now in an era when such terms as *polus frontalis*, *lobus occipitalis*, and *ventriculus quartus* should be abandoned.

J. HUME ADAMS

BASIC NEUROPATHOLOGY By Ursula T. Slager. (Pp. 311; illus.; \$14.75.) Williams & Wilkins: Baltimore. 1971.

In this book, which is based on neuropathological material encountered in the course of the practice of pathology in a large general hospital, Dr. Slager has made a commendable attempt to provide a much needed concise account of neuropathology. Two of the groups of readers at which the book is aimed—that is, medical students and junior medical staff working in the neurosciences—will find it useful. It is a little unfortunate, however, that Dr. Slager has not dealt with some of the more important aspects of neuropathology in slightly greater detail and in a more logical fashion; thus the chapters on vascular disease and on head injuries are not as clear as they might be and it is surprising that these two topics are dealt with before the general features of intracranial expanding lesions. It is also unusual not to find any mention of epilepsy in the section devoted to hypoxia. On the other hand there are excellent chapters on normal cyto-architecture and reactions to injury, infections, and intracranial tumours, and there is a wealth of concise and informative summaries on many of the rarer diseases of the nervous system. The book is very fully illustrated but a considerable

number of illustrations fall short of the standard one expects to find in a book of this type. Each chapter is supported by a brief list of references: one gives a distinguished British neuropathologist a co-author called D. M. Oxon!

J. HUME ADAMS

VIOLENCE AND THE BRAIN By Vernon H. Mark and Frank R. Ervin. (Pp. 170; illus.; \$6.95.) Harper and Row: New York. 1970.

Violence is not new, but awareness and concern about it are greater than ever before. Everyone, whether prelate, psychologist, policeman, politician, or parent, has a view about its cause and about how it might be reduced or controlled. The medical profession has not been greatly involved in the polemics of violence, apart from the professional involvement of the psychiatrist with the narrow problem of the captured criminal whose sanity is suspect. This book by a neurosurgeon and a psychiatrist asserts that, as violence is merely one aspect of human behaviour, it is an expression of the functioning brain and so is properly the concern of those whose daily life is with the brain. The book is therefore a biologically oriented approach to the problem of violence. It was conceived as a book for other doctors but the authors then decided to redirect their efforts towards the intelligent laity, but have kept plenty of references at the end of each chapter for professional readers. The canvas is broad, although the book is short; somehow there is space for anatomical sketches, EEG traces, pictures of stereotaxic surgery, detailed accounts of individual patients, and even a smattering of poetic and philosophical quotations. This all adds up to an interesting and unusual little book.

BRYAN JENNETT

OPERATIVE NEUROSURGERY. 3RD EDITION By E. Stephens Gurdjian and L. Murray Thomas. (Pp. 609; illus., £10.00.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1970.

Every author ought to define his readership and if he indicated this in his preface then his efforts could be judged by that criterion. For books are written to be read, rather than to be sold or reviewed. This one has presumably already sold well because this is the third edition. It is comprehensive and deals with head, spine, autonomic nervous system, and peripheral nerves and includes more than 900 references grouped at the end of each of these four sections. For almost every procedure or instrument there is a historical introduction with references, and this fills out the text considerably. Indeed, there is sometimes as much on history as on the practicalities of a procedure. Anatomy is not only stressed but at

times laboured, presumably the result of adding an anatomist to the previous team of authors. Thus in the middle of a description of the removal of a temporal epidural haematoma the anatomy of the middle meningeal artery is introduced, complete with its ganglionic branch and the superior tympanic artery, which really have absolutely no relevance to this vital emergency operation. The preface indicates that the surgery of trauma is particularly stressed, so it is perhaps fair to judge the book by such operations. In describing epidural haematoma no reference is made to diagnostic difficulties arising from haematomas in sites other than the classical temporal one; the term subtemporal decompression is used where most would now talk of craniectomy and we are told that in the experience of the authors half the patients have a bone flap turned and half have a craniectomy. Surely this depends more on local policy than on an absolute need to do one kind of operation or another. The size of the craniectomy is described as that of a silver dollar, which I am assured even American readers may not be wholly familiar with. A lot of words are wasted on statements of the obvious or else permissive instructions—a bone flap of *adequate size* should be turned, a drain *may* be left in, the dura *may* be repaired (my italics).

Books on operative surgery depend heavily on their pictures and this one has the novel idea of using line diagrams, described as multiple action and multiple plane pictures. As they are on ordinary nongloss paper they could have been distributed at will throughout the text but in fact they are grouped on right-hand pages. Some are clear and helpful but others are crowded too close together and the loss of perspective also makes for difficulties. The legends are difficult to relate to the right part of the picture and it would be wise, before another edition, to pass every page of illustrations to a potential reader and take note of any difficulties he has in interpretation; few of us would dare write anything without inviting scrutiny from an unbiased critic. If this were done and the text balanced up regarding the common versus the rare and the historical versus the practical, this might become a very interesting and effective book.

BRYAN JENNETT

RESEARCH ON THE CEREBRAL CIRCULATION Edited by J. S. Meyer, H. Lechner, M. Reivich, and O. Eichhorn. (Pp. 297; illus.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1970.

One of the problems presented by the explosion of activity in the field of cerebral circulation in the last decade is the exponential increase in the number of meetings on the topic; and as night follows day,

reports follow conferences. Professor Zulch, in his introduction to this report of the Fourth Salzburg Conference, draws attention to this and identifies the special characteristics of this group as being concerned with bedside problems. Certainly most of the contributions do relate to human observations, albeit including a considerable number of pathological reports. Discussion is very fully reported but adequately edited; illustrations are plentiful and excellently reproduced. With 35 chapters ranging from a length of 10 pages to 10 lines, it is impossible in this review to indicate the topics covered as there was no unifying theme to this particular meeting. It is inevitable that many of the names are familiar from previous (and subsequent) cerebral circulation conferences; if conferences are to continue at their present rate it might be a bold move to add a question on the application form, 'At which recent conferences have you already presented this paper?' However, as a conference report this is of a very high standard, readable and well produced although somewhat dated in some of the more dynamic aspects of the subject. It carries no mention of the date of the meeting—my guess in 1968.

BRYAN JENNETT

THE ANATOMY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM OF OCTOPUS VULGARIS By J. Z. Young. (Pp. 690; illus.; £11.00.) Oxford University Press: London. 1971.

Most cephalopods are large, active, versatile animals with a necessarily complex nervous organization. For the best of evolutionary reasons, however, they are anatomically about as far from mammals as it is possible to be. They thus present a formidable challenge to the behavioural scientist and the neurobiologist. We owe it to J. Z. Young, and to the workers whom he has inspired, that the challenge has been so effectively accepted. Among non-mammalian animals they have established the octopus as a uniquely valuable object of study. There is hardly a general problem in neurobiology, from axon physiology to the neurological basis of memory, to which octopus has not made an important contribution.

Young, with the help of some of his colleagues, has performed a real service in producing this magnificent working treatise. It is primarily a lavishly and handsomely illustrated anatomy, but it reflects the interests, behavioural and physiological, that have given the incentive for the work it reports. Indeed it includes technical advice on surgical procedures as well as on histological ones. By making the approach to cephalopod neurobiology easier than it would otherwise have been it will certainly attract new workers to the field.

D. R. NEWTH