may be correlated with unique change in molecular composition or conformation having certain loose affinities with immunology is far more controversial. This book performs a service in summarizing the evidence for such an attitude: although written by enthusiasts, the defects in argument and evidence are fairly presented; it will provoke but not convince the sceptic. Many of the reported experiments of attempted transfer of learned information yield inconstant results in the hands of the same investigator, and cannot always be repeated independently. The rational basis of the experiments has a strangely insubstantial air; it is uncertain whether their aim is to induce, by transfer, the brain of the recipient animals to undergo by its own metabolic processes, changes resembling those in the donor, or whether the behavioural transfer sought is to be viewed as a passive consequence of the receptor of specific molecules, whether in fact the change in the recipient is equivalent to an active or passive immunological procedure. In most cases the substances transferred are of unknown type, stability and purity: they are usually administered by routes which make it unlikely that they act directly upon brain and have not been shown to arrive there.

The book provides an introduction to this most controversial and speculative field. It should be read not alone, but in conjunction with others which illustrate potential psychological, biochemical, physiological, and pharmacological pitfalls of such investigations.

While there is no doubt that new ideas are powerful antigens, the evidence presented here does not provide convincing evidence that learning is associated with unique biochemical events. It is a restatement in scientific terms of a controversy at least two and a half thousand years old and the last word has not yet been said.

W. E. WATSON

CLINICAL EXAMINATIONS IN NEUROLOGY (Pp. 350; illustrated; £5.35.) Saunders: Philadelphia. 1971. After an interval of many years it is a great pleasure to renew acquaintance with the Mayo *Clinical Examinations in Neurology*. The many distinguished contributors to this, the third edition, have again produced a fitting memorial to their early mentors. The book remains remarkably compact, is clearly laid out, and is easy to read. The theme is unchanged: the search for a comprehensive and systematic approach to the neurological interview and examination. The emphasis on good history taking is entirely correct. The current widening interest in paediatric neurological work is covered by an excellent amplified chapter on the examination of the infant and the juvenile.

In general the recommended techniques of examination are acceptable. The arbitrary numerical grading of muscular strength is at variance with British customs. The suggestion that plantar stimulation be done by finger-nail or nail file is dangerous as well as distasteful. The dismissal of optokinetic tests 'need not be considered in clinical work' will be questioned by many neurologists who have an interest also in ophthalmology. Very much on the credit side are the details of individual muscle testing, and the line drawings (taken from Hollinshead) depicting muscle anatomy, and lines of action, are superb.

The ancillary methods of examination are given several chapters. Brain scanning is cursorily dealt within a page, surely an under-emphasis, while EMG rates 29 and EEG 12. The chapter on EEG uses terminology which has been discarded by many workers, but that on EMG is an excellent primer, as would be expected from the Mayo Clinic's department.

On the clinical side this book is sound, and could be handed to every new resident or registrar in neurology (and psychiatry) as introductory reading. While his clinical work would benefit, he might give a wistful sigh at the price.

IAN D. MELVILLE

EYE SYMPTOMS IN BRAIN TUMOURS By Alfred Huber (2nd edn.). Editor and translator Frederick Blodi. (Pp. 376; illustrated; £14.60.) C. V. Mosby: Saint Louis. 1971. Distribution in Great Britain by Henry Kimpton.

One might imagine from the title of this book that it would take a rather restricted view of neuro-ophthalmology, but this is far from true, and in fact it is a very good book. It is based on Dr. Huber's experience as an ophthalmologist working in the neurosurgical clinic at the University of Zurich of which Professor Krayenbühl is the director, and it is quite clear from the very beginning that it is the fruit of very wide experience. This gives it qualities of freshness, liveliness and energy (and perhaps a little dogmatism), so often lacking in modern textbooks. All aspects of 'neurosurgical' ophthalmology are covered and there is a full list of up-to-date references.

The translation is sometimes not very good. In places it is an effort to follow the text and it may be confusing, as for example in the use of the term Bell's palsy as if it were synonymous with facial weakness (p. 16) and describing it as supranuclear or peripheral. This presumably must be laid at the door of the translator.

He also uses some unfamiliar words and modes of expression—for example, 'space consuming' for the more common 'space occupying' (p. 151).