These are all things that can be put right and in spite of them the book as a whole is excellent and will be valuable reading for the ophthalmologist or the neurologist.

C. J. EARL

ESSAYS ON TEMPERATURE REGULATION By J. Bligh and R. Moore. (Pp. 205; illustrated; HFL. 40.00.) North-Holland: London-Amsterdam. 1972.

These essays are based on invited lectures given at Trinity College, Dublin in 1971, and combine a review of the literature with the authors' own researches. To ensure rapid publication the original typescripts have been reproduced. A lot of attention is devoted to details of various models, mechanical, mathematical, and electrical, which have been proposed to describe the behaviour of our body temperature control systems. Response to stress by external heat and cold are considered and also the response to the internal heat produced by exercise. Possible alterations in set-point of the body 'thermostat' are considered. It seems likely that the set-point is raised in fever due to the pyrogen released during infection, that is that during fever the body continues to react in the usual way to hot and cold stress, but tends to keep body temperature at an unusually high level. Other chapters deal with central transmitters, adrenaline, noradrenaline and 5-hydroxy tryptamine, and with evidence for deep thermosensitive structures outside the hypothalamus. It is argued that these may exist among other places in the spinal cord. This possibility requires further investigation in man, particularly those with tetraplegia.

J. M. K. SPALDING

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS IN PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY By Jorge C. Lagos. (Pp. 346; illustrated; £6.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1971.

Guides to differential diagnosis appeal to the student and non-expert. They have acquired an air of disreputability as though there were something underhand about reaching a diagnosis without the long apprenticeship of formal study. It might be argued that this is the logical approach to diagnosis as this is how illness presents. The conventional textbook assumes the correct diagnosis as a prerequisite.

Dr. Lagos has tackled the problem by devoting a short chapter to each of the common presentations of neurological illness in childhood. The specific conditions are then briefly described showing how the presenting symptoms relate to the more general pathology. There is no instruction in the method of reaching a diagnosis, nor is there any real discussion of the distinction between one condition and another.

One looks up the chapter with the appropriate title, for example, 'abnormal movement and posture', and checks through the 21 conditions described. The accounts of the individual diseases, occupying from a few lines to several pages, are orthodox and to the point. The two chapters on epilepsy, 'Seizures in the neonate' and 'Seizures in infancy and childhood' are particularly successful, giving practical advice based on informed theory.

The format of this book makes it unsuitable for reference and it does not foster a logical interest in the diseases or related conditions. I do not think that it is a book for medical students, but it would be of use to the practitioner with wider experience yet irregular contact with paediatric neurology.

IVAN T. DRAPER

A PRIMER IN NEUROLOGICAL STAINING PROCEDURES By George Clark and Margaret Clark. (Pp. 74; illustrated; price not stated.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1971.

As the authors are of the opinion that it is difficult to obtain instruction in the specialized techniques applicable to the nervous system, they have written this book for the experimental neurologist who wishes to become competent in selected neurohistological techniques. After dealing with fixation with particular emphasis on perfusion techniques, there are chapters on the production of celloidin, paraffin, and frozen sections. Then a selected group of staining techniques are dealt with in detail, namely, the Nissl method using cresyl violet, modification of Spielmeyer's technique for myelin, the Swank-Davenport modification of the Marchi technique, and the methods of Nauta, Golgi, Bodian, and Cajal. Finally there are some observations on the use of haematoxylin and eosin, and the Van Gieson and Masson techniques. The book is clearly and concisely written and contains much useful information on the techniques selected. It can be said, therefore, that the authors have been commendably successful in achieving their object in the very limited field they have chosen. It will not replace working at the bench with an experienced neurohistological technician.

J. HUME ADAMS

NEUROPSYCHOLOGIE DE LA PERCEPTION VISUELLE Edited by Henri Hécaen. (Pp. 319; 83 figures, 17 tables; 110f.) Masson: Paris. 1972.

This is a collection of 18 papers written in French by authors from several countries. Each is based on a seminar given in Paris during 1969-70 as part of Professor Hécaen's course on the neuropsychology of visual perception—a very interesting course if this

book reflects its structure and content. A good introductory section dealing with the anatomy of the visual system and some of its properties is followed by sections discussing animal studies, visual perception in infants, and the perceptual disturbances which can follow cerebral lesions in man. Each chapter is a discrete entity but the apt selection of topics and the specificity of the overall theme make the book a reasonably coherent whole. The importance of eye movements in the perceptual process is particularly stressed, and it is a pleasant surprise to find discussions of both agnosia (by Vignolo and by Hécaen) and the variables affecting the visual threshold (by Dubois-Poulsen) in the same volume. On the other hand it is a pity that, in making the transition from seminar to chapter, three authors have failed to append a bibliography.

There is little here that is new. The book will probably be of greatest value to the French reader as a collection of discussions, written in French, of data which have previously been reported in other languages; but it may also serve to introduce to some English readers the work of authors who usually publish in French—for example, Dubois-Poulsen on visual thresholds, Vurpillot on visual perception in infants, and Jeannerod on the role of eye movements in the perception of space.

G. RATCLIFF

HEAD INJURIES: Proceedings of an International Symposium held in Edinburgh and Madrid (Pp. 342; illustrated; £6.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1971.

There is a reaction setting in against the publication of conference proceedings. This book, which includes some interesting material, exemplifies the difficulty of making a coherent literary work out of a conference. An author can fairly be asked who his work was written for and with what purpose. But the motives behind conferences are complex. Whom you meet is often more important than what is said; and as no one knows, until he comes and submits his manuscript, what the other speakers will say, some duplication is inevitable. This is a tale of two cities but many of the hundred assorted nationals who contributed did not go to both Edinburgh and Madrid. Some of the contributors verge on the parochial and, although others were experts reporting serious studies, many were practising surgeons expounding their experience or parading their prejudices, without the benefit of evidence. A number of contributions are brief to the point of triviality, others turgid with platitudes.

The sequence of chapters looks promising in the contents but it proves less satisfactory in the text. Indeed we seem to start all over again in Madrid;

having gone from prevention to the roadside and through to rehabilitation, we are back at organization, maps, and posters. There are curious juxtapositions which add to the impression of chaos. Next to a report of complex studies with eight channel records is an end-of-year message from the director of the Ambulance Service. The role of the nurse and the importance of lactic acid rate chapters side by side. Many of the specialists whose expertise is sometimes called on in treating head injuries are represented—plastic, ENT, orthopaedic, and thoracic surgeons—and this is useful. But how about this for a title, 'Re-animation in polytraumatism with cranioencephalic involvement or predominance'? In the penultimate section one hapless author deals with 'The diagnosis and treatment of head injuries', in three pages!

This may have been a useful conference to attend and there are snippets of interesting information to be gleaned from reading the book. But to advance real understanding by exchanging data and ideas, a conference has to be limited to a single theme, and the speakers to a small number of acknowledged experts. Only the proceedings of such conferences, such as the Congress of Neurosurgeons in America or the Ciba Symposia in Britain, are really worth publishing, and deserve to be termed scientific works rather than souvenir programmes.

BRYAN JENNETT

ATLAS OF THE HISTOLOGY OF BRAIN TUMORS By Klaus J. Zulch. (Pp. 261; illustrated; DM 78, \$22.60.) Springer: Berlin. 1971.

This book is intended to be a central atlas of brain tumours and, as such, is said to be a guide to the art of classifying brain tumours correctly. I doubt if many neuropathologists will consider that either aim has been achieved, particularly as the author himself admits that the reader should consult his other publications for more detailed descriptions. There is also no indication as to whether this *Atlas* is aimed at experienced or trainee neuropathologists. The former will no doubt enjoy the academic exercise of browsing through the book, questioning some of the diagnoses and the terminology used, and wondering why certain fields—and the reason is often obscure—and magnifications have been chosen to illustrate certain features. The trainee will be overwhelmed by 400 illustrations, a great variety of staining techniques, the wide use of the cresyl violet stain, and the briefest of legends. One feels that the principal reason for their brevity is that they are given in six languages. Clearly a great amount of effort has gone into the preparation of this *Atlas*: it is, therefore, a pity that one cannot be more enthu-