Myers and Yaksh survey work describing the temperative responses to the micro-injection of 5-HT and noradrenaline into various parts of the hypothalamus. They also describe new work of their own using either micro-injection or ventricular perfusion with calcium and sodium solutions. Calcium rich solutions caused peripheral vasodilatation and a fall in temperature while sodium rich solutions caused shivering and a rise in temperature. For me this was the most interesting paper in the book. Also of some neurological interest is the discussion by Heath *et al.* of the varying role of the preoptic-anterior hypothalamic centres in temperature regulation in different species. They suggest that in small animals these centres respond to environmental temperatures while in larger ones they respond to local tissue temperatures.

There is also a paper on structured water in biological systems by Bland which contains much that will be new to most clinicians if not to physicists and physical chemists.

In conclusion it would seem fair to say that this volume is another overpriced product of the symposium industry.

MERLIN MARSHALL

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF MUSCLE TONE By Mario Wiesendanger. (Pp. 46; illustrated; \$8.80.) Springer: Berlin. 1972.

The aim of this little book is to familiarize the neurologist with neural mechanisms important for the understanding of central motor disorders, to point to new and promising developments in clinical neurophysiology, and, finally, to discuss reliable methods for assessing muscle tone in patients.

The review is divided into two main parts: firstly, some mechanisms regulating the motor output, in which the spinal and supraspinal control of alpha motoneurone output is discussed, followed by a short section on experimental models of disorders of muscle tone, with particular reference to the gamma system. Secondly, spasticity and rigidity, which are discussed from a large number of different aspects. It includes a review of much of the work on the tonic vibration reflex and the more recent work on direct observations on single muscle spindle afferents in man. Unfortunately, Dietrichson's work on the role of the fusimotor system in spasticity and Parkinsonian rigidity seems to be overlooked.

Dr. Wiesendanger's aims are largely successful, for he has written a review which is essentially unbiased, as well as clear and concise.

It should appeal to neurologists and others interested in the physiology or pathology of motor control.

GEOFFREY RUSHWORTH

APHASIA, APRAXIA AND AGNOSIA By Jason W. Brown. (Pp. 309; illustrated; \$14.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Illinois.

Dr. Jason Brown is a newcomer to the aphasiological clique but a very welcome one. With this present volume he has staked his claim to serious and sympathetic consideration. For one thing he is up-to-date, and there are references to a considerable number of studies which have often been overlooked. Even after a century of talk, the clash between the dynamic and the materialistic schools of neurological thinking regarding the problems of perception and thought, continues. Many writers contrive to steer a precarious course between the Scylla and Charybdis of opinion, some with conspicuous success; others not. Dr. Brown's book belongs to the former group, and by setting out the data and the references he leaves it to the reader to decide which camp better suits his idiosyncrasies. Often the author himself remains cautiously on the touch-line.

This is probably the best medium-sized study of a particularly difficult and contentious subject which exists today in the English language. Its appearance is of no little topical value because there is a most unfortunate contemporary tendency on the part of neurologists to brush aside the problems of higher nervous activity, and to let the topic go by default into the domain of psychology.

MACDONALD CRITCHLEY

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, Vol. 96 Edited by Samuel A. Trufant. (Pp. 371; \$13.50.) Springer: New York. 1972.

This reprint of the papers given at the 1971 meeting of the American Neurological Association occupies a handsome, hard covered book of 320 pages costing \$13.50. The material is no better and no worse than one might expect at a comparable meeting such as the A.B.N. There are some stimulating contributions which hint at exciting innovations of thought. The majority are however mundane and include a number of single case reports, and the results of some therapeutic trials. There is a continuing interest in the treatment of Parkinsonism.

In what was presumably an effort to limit the cost, the illustrations and tables were excluded. This makes it difficult to evaluate some of the conclusions which the authors have reached. As at any good scientific meeting, these papers are notes on work in progress. They are essentially ephemeral and this presentation seems extravagant.

IVAN T. DRAPER