Book reviews

This book is the second of a projected series of biennial volumes surveying the frontiers of the rapidly expanding science of neuroendocrinology. The editors claim that this science is concerned not only with the neural control of endocrine secretion, but also with the effects of hormones on behaviour, and with the broader pattern of the interaction between the brain and the internal environment. There are 12 chapters, and all the contributors are acknowledged experts in their fields. The book begins with an excellent detailed account of anatomical considerations relevant to the interpretation of neuroendocrine experiments. There are chapters on the neural control of prolactin secretion, the regulation of follicle stimulating and luteinizing hormones in humans, and feedback control of adrenocorticotrophic hormone secretion. Current views on the role of brain monoamines in the control of anterior pituitary function are focused on in two articles, and there is a very good account of the mechanism of action of hypothalamic-hypophysial stimulating and inhibiting hormones. Of particular interest to the psychiatrist are the chapters concerned with the sexual differentiation of the neuroendocrine axis and the neuroendocrine factors regulating primate behaviour. This is a rewarding book that fully lives up to its title, and will be of great interest not only to neuroendocrinologists, but also to neurophysiologists, biochemists, and biologically minded psychiatrists.

A. WAKELING

This is the first volume of a three-volume set, and it consists of two books with chapters written by 37 eminent contributors. The first chapter is by Erik Lindgren and is on the history of neuroradiology. It is followed by sections on the technical aspects of skull radiography, skull maturation, the vault, the base, the orbit, congenital anomalies, metabolic diseases, and other diseases. The editors ‘have tried to analyse each anatomic structure exhaustively in a sequence which parallels the process of analysis of clinical neuroradiologic problems.’ Thus, there are, in the section on the skull base, chapters dealing with the nasopharynx, craniovertebral junction, foramen magnum, basal foramina and canals, clivus, sella turcica, and the temporal bone. Every chapter is an authoritative monograph clearly and profusely illustrated by what must surely be the finest examples in each author’s collection. In a work of such consistently high quality it is difficult to single out any individual contribution, but the sections dealing with the skull base, the congenital anomalies, and calcification, by themselves would justify the presence of this book in the library. The section on skull trauma is also very good and anticipates the next volume by including the angiographic appearances of traumatic aneurysms, meningeal arteriovenous fistulae, and meningeal artery occlusion.

The editors claim that the book is primarily a reference source and this is undoubtedly true. Lists of references, some very extensive, follow each chapter and the total for the volume is nearly 1,800. There is also a detailed index. The remaining two volumes will be devoted to angiography, pneumography, neuropathology, and isotope and other diagnostic techniques, and if the standard of the first volume is maintained the complete work will form an indispensable reference source for all interested in the radiological diagnosis of neurological problems and also for those training in the fields of neurology, neurosurgery, and neuroradiology.

J. L. STEVEN

In June 1971 a symposium on multiple sclerosis was held in Newcastle upon Tyne. The papers presented at this symposium have been reprinted in the third volume of Clinical Studies by the North Holland Publishing Company. Four topics of current interest were selected. The final section, entitled ‘virology’, was very much concerned with the role of measles infection in multiple sclerosis. The impression which I gained from reading these papers was that, although so much attention has been paid to measles, it does not seem to be causally related to multiple sclerosis, and secondly that the more often evidence of infection were sought in other chronic neurological disorders the more often it would be found.