CLINICAL ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY By L. G. Kiloh, A. J. McComas and J. W. Osselson. (Pp. 239; illustrated; £6.50.) Butterworth: London.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1961 and was rapidly successful in establishing itself as a major standard work on the subject. The present third edition is 100 pages longer than the first and the authors have been joined by A. J. McComas who has contributed important new sections on the basic neurophysiology of the EEG. The section dealing with recording techniques has been usefully expanded and there is a new chapter dealing with special methods such as the study of evoked potentials and techniques of all night sleep recording, and the place of the EEG in intensive care monitoring is discussed. The presentation as in the early editions remains concise, comprehensive, and authoritative, and it is well documented with up to date references. The illustrations to the newer sections are of high quality and it is a pity that many of the illustrations which appeared clearly in the earlier editions are now poorly reproduced. This is a small blemish in a valuable book which deserves continued success.

J. A. R. LENMAN

INJURIES OF THE CERVICAL SPINE By R. Braakman and L. Penning. (Pp. 262; 181 figures; Dfl. 70.00/ U.S. \$21.90.) Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1971. In this very well-illustrated book, the emphasis is on radiological and neurological diagnosis, and on early treatment. The approach is a mechanistic one and the sections on functional anatomy and biomechanics are an elaboration of Dr. Penning's monograph *Functional Pathology of the Cervical Spine* (1968).

The classification of cervical spine injuries has been carefully considered and has been simplified so that the aetiology and the radiological features can be related to the neurological symptoms and the treatment that appears to be indicated.

There are few details of the operative procedures that are mentioned, such as the application of skull calipers, laminectomy, and anterior cervical operations; and no illustrations of the patient's management on pillow-packs or on turning frames. However, there are excellent up-to-date references, which are liberally quoted in the text. Indeed this book is also a good review of most aspects of cervical spine injury. It is wondered if this is a personal series of cases that the authors quote in the book, as this would obviously influence such aspects as the results of treatment and the prognosis.

The early management of patients with serious spinal injuries is still controversial, and the authors have reviewed the literature and give a schema for treatment, but the reviewer would have liked more details of their decisions concerning treatment and in

particular about laminectomy; he feels that there are even fewer indications for this than the authors recommend. They prefer to treat hyperflexion luxations by reduction and fixation as early as possible and say that their treatment helps recovery of root damage. The earliest possible referral of patients with a cervical spine injury to a 'spinal paralysis unit' is recommended.

Half of the book is devoted to illustrated cases and comments; it would probably have been better to blend these into the main body of the text. As the volume is set out it would be invaluable to the reader to have page number references in addition to the figure references as this would save considerable time in searching for the 'displaced' figure.

Myelography is mentioned as having a place as an investigation for a selected number of patients with cervical spine injury, and rightly so, but it is not stressed that this investigation requires very special expertise when being carried out in the acute phase of injury.

The book is a valuable contribution to the literature on spinal injuries but is not very suitable for those who do not specialize in this sphere.

PHILLIP HARRIS

NORMAL AND ABNORMAL DEVELOPMENT: The influence of primitive reflexes on motor development By M. R. Fiorentino. (Pp. 64; illustrated; \$6.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1972.

There has been a need for a long time now for a short, clear account of the development of movement in normal infants. This is necessary in order to recognize motor disorders early enough to instigate useful management of these deficits at a time when the plasticity of the nervous system is at its greatest.

The present book goes some way in fulfilling this need. The brief text is apt and very descriptive, but occasionally it lacks scientific precision. The introductory chapter stresses the importance of afferent input to the learning of movement, and the incorporation of reflex responses in the development of co-ordinated muscle responses which become purposeful movements. It would be nice to have references to the scientific work which elucidated the facts on these aspects of motor development.

The photographic illustrations are very important to this work and are well chosen to show the evolution and modification of particular reflex motor responses. However, the quality of the photographs is not very high, and their spacing between a very sparse text leaves a lot of blank spaces which I suppose could be used for one's own notes.

I would expect that this little book will be used by paediatric neurologists and all who are interested in