tical perspective. For instance, there are only three passing references to kuru in a book of 650 pages.

This edition reflects the renewed interest in the immunological theories of multiple sclerosis. More than half the text is devoted to Professor Lumsden's analysis of the pathology and, in particular, the chemical pathology of the immune response. There is a great deal of original work devoted to the chemistry and behaviour of the immunoglobulins. Much of this appears in specialist journals and one must be grateful for the critical summary provided here. Professor Lumsden unequivocally sees the key to the problem of multiple sclerosis in the study of its immunochemistry, relegating infection by a virus or a slow virus to a quite subsidiary role.

The clinical studies drawing on wide practical experience help to get one's prejudices about the illness onto a more reasoned footing. The section on treatment is still sadly limited. Dr. McAlpine found little to add to the regime which he described in 1955.

McAlpine, Lumsden, and Acheson's reappraisal is an essential reference for the practising neurologist and the new edition makes important modification of and changes in emphasis from the edition of 1965.

I. T. DRAPER

HERPES SIMPLEX ENCEPHALITIS By L. S. Illis and J. V. T. Gostling. (Pp. 117; illustrated; £4.75.) Sciencetechnica: Bristol. 1973.

In view of the ever increasing interest in herpes simplex encephalitis, there is at present a great need for an authoritative review of current concepts of the disease. Unfortunately, I think that there is still a need for such a book, since I find this one extremely unconvincing. The chapter on the clinical features, for example, is more a catalogue of possible symptoms and signs than a realistic attempt to provide the reader with a composite picture of the clinical features of the disease. The chapter on pathology is remarkable for the fact that about as much space is devoted to experimental herpes simplex encephalitis and to the formation of inclusion bodies as to the pathology of the naturally occurring disease. The pathology of herpes simplex encephalitis in the adult at least has a highly characteristic pattern but the description given of it here is almost misleading: one is told, rightly, that there is selectively severe involvement of the temporal lobe but one could easily be left with the impression, which is quite wrong, that such involvement is unilateral. The inclusion of a brief description of acute haemorrhagic leuco-encephalitis is also not particularly helpful.

In the chapter on treatment, we are told that the bulk of the available evidence is against the use of steroids and ACTH, that the result of the use of

cytarabine in a single case is encouraging, that idoxuridine appears to be of benefit, and that 'decompressive craniotomy is of value in certain cases'. If decompression is undertaken 'drug treatment indicated at the same time'—but what drugs? No one likes writing an uncomplimentary review. The book certainly contains some useful facts, commendable chapters on electroencephalography, radiological diagnosis, and differential diagnosis, and an excellent bibliography. But one feels that the authors have attempted to review a vast and rather complex literature without having much personal experience of herpes simplex encephalitis.

J. HUME ADAMS

THE SPINAL CORD 2nd edn Edited by George Austin. (Pp. 761; illustrated; \$48.50.) Thomas: Springfield. 1972.

This is the second edition of a comprehensive account of the spinal cord for neurosurgeons, but including good accounts of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and pathology. These initial chapters, by professional basic scientists, comprise a quarter of the text. The remaining chapters deal with various conditions including trauma, disease, tumours, and so on. With 16 different authors the style and quality of the different chapters naturally varies but in most there is a disappointing lack of information from large series about the frequency of various clinical features and there is over-much reliance on rather subjective reports of individual cases. This latter is reflected in a plethora of radiographs, in spite of which myelography with air or water-soluble media are not even mentioned, although they are widely practised in all advanced European centres. Good lists of references are given and production is of the highest quality. The book is by no means comprehensive in its clinical coverage, and has relatively little about children and nothing about syringomyelia, spondylolisthesis, or the treatment of spinal angiomas. For these reasons, and its cost, it seems likely to be a book for the library rather than the individual.

BRYAN JENNETT

THE ASSESSMENT OF APHASIA AND RELATED DISORDERS By H. Goodglass and Edith Kaplan. (Pp. 80; illustrated; £5.15.) Lea and Febiger: Philadelphia. 1972.

Clinicians are constantly aware of their deficiencies in making quantitative records of physical signs. Their methods are often highly personal and it is sometimes difficult to compare a patient's condition at different visits to the clinic. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the study of dysphasia. Students and juniors often find the commonly used test charts difficult to apply and delphic in their implications.