

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.) Scientifica: 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 the series about the frequency of various clinical features and there is over-much reliance on rather unrepresentative 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 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.

Goodglass and Kaplan's *Assessment of Aphasia and Related Disorders* provides standardized test material and a method of scoring the results. It is improbable that this would make it easier for the novice to reach a diagnosis but it would enable comparisons to be made on different test occasions and it would allow a speech profile to be constructed. This might form a basis for a programme of treatment and its assessment.

Like other test material its application requires skill but in experienced hands it should prove to be invaluable.

I. T. DRAPER

CEREBRAL CONTROL OF EYE MOVEMENTS AND MOTION PERCEPTION Edited by Johannes Dichgans and Emilio Bizzi. (Pp. 395; illustrated; £14.15.) Karger: Basel.

This symposium, held in July 1971 in Freiburg, was mainly about the physiology of eye movements; only four or five of the 58 contributors mention the perception of motion. The book that reports the symposium sustains a high standard of competence, but not much in it is very exciting.

G. S. BRINDLEY

SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS OF NEUROLOGY Edited by M. Critchley, J. L. O'Leary, and Bryan Jennett. (Pp. 502; illustrated; £11.) Heinemann: London. 1972.

In recent years advances in clinical neurology and neurosurgery have depended on the interactions of many different scientific disciplines, in particular neurophysiology, psychology, neurochemistry, radiological and isotope techniques. In this book the aim has been to describe selected aspects of the neurological sciences and review their clinical applications, and a number of special methods of investigation have been described in detail.

The first section deals with the physiology of the nervous system with particular emphasis on the motor system and disorders of movement. Much of the section on sensation is devoted to the study of pain and its treatment. Chapters on higher cortical function discuss disturbances of consciousness, memory, speech, and the surgical treatment of mental illness. Further chapters deal with epilepsy, the cerebral circulation, and the CSF and with methods of investigation including electroencephalography, electromyography, isotope techniques, and brain biopsy but neuroradiology has not been included. A final part deals with a number of clinical problems of current interest such as slow virus infection and spinal dysraphism.

The editors have been successful in gathering a distinguished team of contributors and many of the chapters contain the authoritative views of a distinguished worker in a particular field. There is, however, considerable variation in style between the different chapters, some of which are high level review articles whereas others deal with the material at a more elementary level in a relatively didactic style, and in future editions the editors might aim to achieve a more uniform level of presentation. The book as a whole contains a vast amount of information, much of it not readily accessible elsewhere, and some of the chapters provide unusually interesting reading. This is a major contribution and likely to become one of the classics of neurology. The production is of a high standard and the cost, although high, is not excessive for what is offered.

J. A. R. LENMAN

TOXICOLOGIE D'URGENCE: choix de techniques analytiques By J. Meunier. (Pp. 223; 102.5 F.) L'Expansion Scientifique Française: Paris. 1972.

This book in French suffers from the fact that it is not what the title suggests. The major fault lies in the presentation of analytical methods without a critical assessment of their respective values. Little fault can be found in the analytical methods advocated but they are all already available in the larger standard works.

To British readers information on the various treatment centres in Paris and France, together with a route map of Paris, with the trade names of drugs in French make little appeal.

When the author strays from analytical methods to clinical application he betrays unawareness of the true role of the laboratory in support of physical treatment.

It is unlikely that this book would be a valuable addition to toxicological laboratories in Britain. Should this assessment be wrong the cardboard cover and page binding will require early reinforcement.

HENRY MATTHEW

THE PROJECTIVE USE OF THE BENDER GESTALT By Edna Albers Lerner. (Pp. 86; illustrated; \$10.75 (cloth), \$5.95 (paperback).) Thomas: Illinois. 1972.

Now that the dust has settled it is apparent that the use of psychological tests for the diagnosis of neuropsychiatric conditions has patently failed to justify most of the claims made on their behalf. Nonetheless, a few tests continue to induce a flickering interest among clinical psychologists, often on empirical rather than theoretical grounds. The Bender-Gestalt Test, which consists essentially in the copying and reproduction of nine simple designs is such a procedure. Introduced originally on the