NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ELECTROMYOGRAPHY AND
CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY. Vols 1–3 Edited by
J. E. Desmedt. (Pp. 2,094; illustrated; £76.20.)
These volumes represent a landmark in the develop-
ment of electromyography. Starting as an adjunct of
medical practice, the techniques are now clearly
established for the investigation of the neurophysi-
ology of normal and diseased human subjects, with
parallel studies in animals. The field is now so large
that few workers now cover the whole subject. It is,
therefore, valuable to have such a useful source of
advanced material available in the laboratory. Profes-
sor Desmedt has based these volumes on some of
the contributions to the Fourth International Con-
gress of Electromyography held in Brussels in 1971
with further invited contributions from distinguished
authors to complete a comprehensive survey of
electromyography and related subjects. As with all
such compilations, the standard is variable, and the
critical discussions are omitted. Nonetheless, the
volumes are very valuable for active workers. They
are less useful for those requiring an entry to the field
or a balanced survey giving due credit to work of the
past and critical comment on current trends. The
evanescence of many parts of the compilation make it
unlikely that many will buy them for personal use.
Comment about the cost of books is disappearing as
money loses its value but the price of these volumes
leaves the reviewer speechless.

J. A. SIMPSON

PRESENT LIMITS OF NEUROSURGERY Edited by I.
Fusek and Z. Kunc. (Dfl. 120-00 (approx. £17.).
Despite the title this book represents the Proceed-
ing of the Fourth European Congress of Neurosurgery,
held in Prague in 1971. It contains 180 communica-
tions of varying length loosely grouped into sections
on oncology, cerebrovascular disorders, stereotactic
surgery, and trauma. In spite of the efforts of the
editors there remains a fairly large miscellaneous
section at the end of the book. The publication of
conference proceedings in book form is now an
established phenomenon, whatever book reviewers
may feel about it. If properly handled, with emphasis
on uniformity, brevity, and strict selection of papers
and on promptness of publication, these books can
serve a most useful purpose in presenting a lot of
information on a main theme, well before it appears,
scattered in many journals. Unfortunately, this book
falls short of the ideal on many counts. The publica-
tion appeared 18 months after the conference, when
six would have been desirable. The individual papers
vary far too much in length, from 12 pages down to a
single non-informative paragraph. The latter look

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