texts, but all the methods described are in use by the authors and they have introduced their own useful modifications to improve results in the nervous system. The text succeeds in its aim of making accessible the special techniques required for demonstrating the component parts of the nervous system, rightly emphasizing that they are still necessary for a proper understanding and demonstration of neuropathology.

Minor criticisms can be aimed at repetitiousness in the description and illustration of silver methods for axons, and at the colour plate of the frontispiece. This adds little or nothing to the monochrome illustrations in the text, and does not seem to justify its additional cost.

D. G. F. HARRIMAN


The author of this book on low back pain is an American neurosurgeon who now devotes most of his time to this problem, and the book largely reflects medical practice in the United States—emphasizing removal of iophendylate after myelography with no mention of water soluble contrast media, and warning of possible lawsuits for failure to warn patients about the sexual consequences of surgery.

The book in many ways is a personal statement, drawing on the author's considerable experience and is profusely illustrated. There are useful sections on the conservative management of patients with back pain and sciatica, and on the newer, largely unproven, methods of treatment such as discolysis with chymopapain or collagenase, prolotherapy, facet rhizotomy, and dorsal column stimulation.

British neurosurgeons who have in their practice a number of patients with persistent pain after surgery, often performed elsewhere, may turn to this book hoping for sound advice on the place of repeat lumbar exploration, on the advisability of deroofing root canals or doing a complete laminectomy, on the place of fusion of the lumbar spine, but most will receive confirmation of their own feeling that the problem of 'recurrent disc' has no easy solution. Spinal dysraphism is not mentioned in this book; indeed, spina bifida has only one page reference in the index and this is wrong. The neurosurgeon will also be likely to feel that the order in which spinal tumours are discussed could usefully be inverted and it is surprising to find no mention of ependymoma of the cauda equina.

The more general reader of this book will be dismayed to find back pain related to pregnancy and pelvic disease relegated to 'uncommon causes' alongside obturator entrapment neuropathy and to find no mention of urinary tract infection in the differential diagnosis of backache.

Two errors which require urgent amendment are the illustration on page 22 which shows the tendon of psoas major crossing anterior to the inguinal ligament and the statement on page 296 that 241 wound infections in 1,000 disc operations represents a rate of 2.41%.

There is helpful advice and information in this book but it is unlikely to become a work of reference.

J. DOUGLAS MILLER


Although Erikson was not one of the contributors to this valuable new addition to the literature on adolescent psychiatry, his thinking and writing have clearly influenced the majority of the contributors to an extent which clearly acknowledges the importance of his work in this field.

Joseph C. Schoolar, the editor, must be praised for his skill in bringing together in this symposium volume distinguished authors and a wide range of topics which on the one hand study in depth some of the problems particular to adolescence while on the other hand offer a broad backcloth of social, cultural, and economic factors relevant to this generation of adolescents and their parents.

A good book can stand criticism, a bad one doesn't warrant it. On the whole there is little to criticize but perhaps those authors, however distinguished, who frequently preface a particular concept with the words 'so-called' should be wary of such an expression unless they make it quite clear that they fully understand the concept. British readers may question the relevance of some chapters to our own scene but we should remember that we have our own developing black and immigrant ghettos and similar types of poverty and social deprivation. Finally, as Dr Schoolar himself says, there are omissions due to limitations of time and space in this otherwise excellent book.

JAMES D. TEMPLETON


This book sets out to record the efforts of behaviour therapists to extend the range of their treatment in the child-clinical-field over the years 1962–72. The editors have selected 28 papers from various journals to give as comprehensive a coverage as possible. This is at once the strength and weakness of the book. On the one hand their choice illustrates the determina-