subcortical connections influencing areas of cortex remote from the lesion.

In general the translation has been made into idiomatic English. However, the literature of dysphasia is infamous for the complexity of its language and the use of unconventional terms. The Working Brain is no exception.

IVAN T. DRAPER


This small paper-back volume embodies the proceedings of a symposium on muscle diseases held at the spa town of Jánška Lázně in Czechoslovakia in March 1971. It includes some 37 contributions from the 60 participants, many of whom came from Eastern Europe, but three (Emery, Hughes, and Walton) attended from Great Britain and there were also invited papers from Western Germany, Italy, France, and Switzerland. While most of the papers are brief synopses of work previously published elsewhere, and some indeed are summaries only, a number of original papers from Czechoslovakian workers are included. Many of these deal specifically with the physical and psychological management of patients with the various forms of neuromuscular disease which are treated in the Children’s Medical Institute at Jánška Lázně. All of the papers are printed in English. The book has been printed inexpensively and the reproduction of certain of the microphotographs and electron micrographs has suffered as a result, though on the whole the illustrations are reasonably clear. Essentially the book is a short and highly selective review of some important problems in neuromuscular disease but its brevity and selectivity mean that it will have a limited appeal to readers in the U.S.A. and Western Europe to whom most of the information which it contains is readily available in extenso elsewhere.

J. N. WALTON


This book is essentially a personal document, reflecting the authors’ interests and its accent is upon the individual types of epileptic seizure which have been extensively studied by the ‘Marseille School’.

Initially, there is brief reference to the classification of seizures and the use of electro-clinical investigatory techniques. The main chapter, comprising over a third of the text, consists of a comprehensive review of seizure patterns, their EEG accompaniments, and their pathophysiological basis. They are classified according to their supposed generalized, local, or unilateral origin and there is reference to secondary generalization. Seizures are also considered according to their distribution in time, their mode of precipitation, the combinations in which they may occur and, finally, according to their patterns in relation to age and aetiology. A propos diagnosis, the authors are at pains to distinguish the condition of recurrent seizures (chronic epilepsy) from attacks considered not to reflect excessive neuronal discharge such as those due to anoxia or metabolic disorders. Finally, treatment is dealt with briefly in all its aspects, including genetic counselling and prognostication. This is undoubtedly a book of great interest, especially to enthusiasts, and contains a wealth of useful information.

MAURICE PARSONAGE

HEAD INJURY FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PENETRATING HEAD WOUNDS By E. S. Gurdjian. (Pp. 139; $11.75.) Thomas: Springfield. 1973.

Dr. Gurdjian’s life-long concern with head injuries should have fitted him well for a scholarly book on the historical aspects of this subject. Unfortunately in this short book, an expanded version of a lecture he attempts too much and the result is disappointing. The historical information is more of a catalogue than an account, and such is Dr. Gurdjian’s zeal for a teacher that the book deals with current research and practice as seen from Detroit. There are 176 references, but many of these too are to recent literature on head injury. Nonetheless, there are many interesting facts and illustrations here which could be useful for someone looking for a historical introduction to an article or lecture on some aspect of head injury.

BRYAN JENNETT


There have been many advances in recent years in the understanding of the ways in which body temperature is controlled, and this readable book gives an invaluable survey of the subject. The sensing of body temperature is essential for its control, and the author describes the sensitivity of the hypothalamus to heat and cold, and of the skin and nasal and buccal surfaces. He also argues that at any rate in some species there are temperature sensors which have
thermoregulatory significance in parts of the body other than the hypothalamus and superficial tissues, and in particular in the spinal cord. There has been debate about the relative importance of peripheral and deep body temperature sensors and the circumstances in which each is dominant. The author considers the possibility that the basic consideration is the mean body temperature rather than any one local temperature. He deals with recent evidence on the role of chemical transmitters which may act in the hypothalamus and with various mechanisms for controlling temperature by altering heat loss and heat production. There are also sections on fever, the effect of exercise, acclimatization, and hibernation. This is a clear review of an expanding subject.

J. M. K. SPALDING

MENTAL DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION OF THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT By L. C. Hartlage and D. G. Lucas. (Pp. 79; illustrated; $6.50.) Thomas: Illinois. 1973. Numerous large and small books on this subject have already appeared. At a price of $6.50 for less than 80 pages it demands critical scrutiny.

There are five chapters, which attempt to deal with mental milestones from 2 years to 9; 10 appendices and an index. Language is American; four pages are devoted to 'Special Education'—State by State—and yet another section surveys 'State Chapters for Disabled Children'.

Since it tries to cover norms for all systems, the detail that can be included in any one area is minimal. The most useful part is the chapter on evaluation of school readiness.

Adequate, perhaps, as a basic text for paediatric students; forthright and dogmatic, this book certainly imprints a number of important facts upon the mind.

Primarily aimed at paediatricians, psychologists, and psychiatrists, one gem refers to 'brief screening instruments which can be mastered in a few minutes by nurse or receptionist'; as these include a motley array of tests from the Full-Scale Wechsler to the Bender Gestalt one wonders why American nurses and aids must be so much more intelligent than ours! I hesitate to recommend this book, yet it has got a certain something, jargon and all.

R. C. MACGILLIVRAY


In these days when neurology tends to be dominated by rather technical investigations the logical and philosophical skills of earlier neurologists tend to be undervalued. Pick was by any standards a remarkable figure and his writings in English are few. This translation of his major contributions is, therefore, most welcome. There seems to be no aspect of aphasia to which he did not turn his mind and make some original contribution. Most important was his analysis of the processes by which thought becomes speech. He wrote that the processes of language 'do not consist of an assumed collection of elements but rather are from their very beginning patterned structures (Gestalten)', or, more simply, meaning is more than a series of words. The disorganization by brain disease leads to disorders of syntax and grammar. It is here that we come to the main problem of aphasiology in that different writers use different terms for rather similar difficulties. Thus Pick's pseudo-agrammatism is similar to Head's syntactical aphasia or even Broadbent's jargon aphasia. A glossary of aphasiological terms and their equivalents from various authors would help the student.

At times Pick is arguing from inadequate knowledge of the extent of frontal or temporal lobe lesions and is too dogmatic as when, for example, he states, 'in general it is chiefly the circulate fasciculus that is anatomically involved in repetition'. There are some interesting comments on 'poorly explained cases' in which in spite of right-handedness right-sided lesions have been followed by aphasal defects. Pick contributed much to the description of repetitive disturbances, like echographia, including his explanation that, since writing is an imitative process, after destruction of higher centres concerned with volitional writing, automatic copying may emerge. His contribution to apraxia, now out of favour, and to the systemic study of body image disorders, which he called autotopagnosia, also make fascinating reading.

Though his writings are not easy to read, they are a rewarding experience which increases respect for our neurological 'ancestors'.

ROGER BANNISTER


Nearly one third of this volume's 772 pages consists of literature references and index. These alone would make the book valuable for research workers, for the references are exhaustive.

The text is a well-documented one referring in part one to spinal tumours and abnormalities which emanate from the vertebral column and compress the spinal cord; part two, a much smaller one, deals...