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 aides 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

APHASIA By Arnold Pick. (Pp. 148; illustrated; \$10.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1973.

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 circuate 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 aphasic 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

HANDBUCH DER NEUROCHIRURGIE (Handbook of Neurosurgery). Vol. VII/2. SPINAL COLUMN AND CORD (Wirbelsäule und Rückenmark) By K. Nitter and W. Bartsch. (Pp. 772; illustrated; DM. 496.) Springer: Berlin. 1972.

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