logical sciences. Early sections cover the structure and physiology of neurones, sensory receptors and the organization of peripheral nerves. Later sections deal with the structure and function of the brain and spinal cord. A final chapter deals with the clinical examination of the nervous system and its applied anatomy, and the appendices include a detailed photographic atlas of the brain and spinal cord.

The presentation is thorough and concise, and care has been taken to provide a balanced account of neuroanatomy and physiology which is reasonably up to date and clinically relevant. References are given at the end of each chapter but it is a pity that these are not cited in the text as some subjects are dealt with in considerable depth, and it is difficult to identify key references for further study. The book as a whole can be thoroughly recommended and many students will be grateful to the authors who have assembled a vast amount of information in attractive form. The illustrations are clear and the price does not seem excessive for what is offered.

J. A. R. LENMAN


It is 27 years since George Dawson described in this Journal a method for recording the potential change evoked in the human cerebral cortex by flashes of light. With the development of cheap methods of electronic averaging the method has been widely applied to psychovisual studies. Despite early promise the results have been disappointing to the clinician except for the measurement of conduction delays in the peripheral optic pathways. Responses to more sophisticated visual stimulation such as pattern, movement, or colour are more promising. Regan has shown that evoked potentials, and in particular the steady state potentials, are capable of precise psycho-physiological correlations. Although his analytical techniques are advanced, his experimental methods are relatively simple as he has the rare gift of stripping difficult problems to their essentials. This review has been delayed as I felt it necessary to study the book carefully. It has been worth the effort and the book is highly recommended.

J. A. SIMPSON


The relevance of this book to the diagnosis of neurological deficit and its management in early childhood is not obvious. There is an ingenious assumption, widespread in some professional circles, that the practice of physiotherapy is made more rational and 'scientific', as well as more effective, if abnormalities of motor development are explained in terms of primitive reflexes.

This assumption is not well-founded. We simply do not know if Sherrington's cats and Tower's monkeys provide a good enough neurophysiological and neuropathological model for what happens to the damaged developing human brain. The fact that some schemes of physical treatment of children with, for example, cerebral palsy seem to be helpful is not proof that their underlying theory is sound.

Photographic illustrations of reflex behaviour are interesting and may help physiotherapists to understand cause and effect in motor behaviour of some handicapped children, but I reject as misleading and unhelpful talk of 'three levels of “reflexive” development'—pedal, quadrupedal, and bipedal—with its teleological underpinning.

JOHN WILSON


The proceedings of the Salzburg Conferences on Research on the Cerebral Circulation are now a regular feature of the cerebral blood flow scene. This volume reports the 5th conference, held late in 1970. The basic theme is a medical one, cerebral ischaemia, in the widest sense and is regarded from many viewpoints, biochemical, physiological, epidemiological, and therapeutic to mention only some.

The book, like all conference proceedings, is somewhat of a curate's egg. The 45 papers vary in length (three to 25 pages) in format (from simple reviews to presentation of original and important data), and, inevitably, in quality of presentation. The discussion is recorded verbatim, which, although recalling the flavour of the meeting for those who attended, entails the publication of much gratuitous comment. There is no index.

The price of this volume and the delay in publication will deter most individual purchasers. This is a pity because there is much of interest to neurologists, general physicians, and workers in the field of the cerebral circulation.

J. DOUGLAS MILLER


The central and largest section of this book (80 pages) consists of the case reports of 14 patients: three with dementia, five with left hemisphere lesions, three with right hemisphere lesions, and three with schizo-