

other equally puzzling neurological riddles: the high incidence of intracranial arteriovenous malformations in patients with subarachnoid haemorrhage in South East Asia; the high frequency of nasal encephaloceles in Asia; the high incidence of meningioma among intracranial tumours in Africans.

Neurologists will find this a stimulating book and will realize only too clearly how much we all have to learn about disease in countries other than our own. It is not, of course, without its applications here and spinal tuberculosis among immigrant populations in this country may take the neurologist by surprise. Most neurologists will enjoy reading this book, although all will want to read particular chapters and all will want to have it available for reference.

C. J. EARL

GALEN ON PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, AND FUNCTION AND DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM  
By R. E. Siegel. (Pp. 310; £17.10.) Karger: Basel. 1973.

In these days of rapid medical advancement, it is salutary to take a backward glance at the contribution made by medical pioneers of the past. The author in this volume evaluates Galen's views and work on neurophysiology and psychology. The present work represents the last volume in a trilogy dealing with Galen's system of physiology and medicine.

Although Galen lacked our contemporary expertise in the basic sciences, he was a careful anatomist and experimenter. The early chapters of this book discuss his views on neurophysiology. To some extent he was indebted to Hippocrates, Aristotle, and Plato but he developed more sophisticated concepts of homeostasis, aetiology, and teleology.

In his psychology, Galen was anxious to avoid a dichotomy between body and soul. He linked psychological types with physical constitution. While his approach to psychological treatment was rather didactic by present-day standards, it is clear that his management of emotional disturbances was a humanistic activity based on philosophic principles.

This is a fine academic work which will prove essential reading to anyone interested in the history of medicine or psychiatry. It is rather expensive even when allowance is made for current price rises. The reviewer, incidentally, noted 12 typographical errors.

A. BALFOUR SCLARE

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM. STUDIES ON METABOLIC REGULATION AND FUNCTION Edited by E. Genazzani and H. Herken. (Pp. 249; illustrated; US \$30.50.) Springer: Berlin. 1974.

Publication of the proceedings of large general symposia are rarely worthwhile, for such books tend

to become disjointed collections of essays lacking in a connecting theme. This is true in the present book based on a symposium held nearly two years ago in Italy on metabolic regulation and function in the central nervous system. The editors have divided the 29 articles into three broad sections: one on metabolic pathways, a second on membrane function and neurotransmission, and a third on hormones and pharmacology. This has resulted in some inconsistencies, thus neuronal activity, axonal transport, and nerve terminal function appear under metabolism, whereas biochemistry of histamine is allocated to neurotransmission. No section is comprehensively covered. Metabolism of choline phosphoglyceride is interestingly discussed but not the functionally important polyphosphoinositides or the glycolipids and sterols. Intermediary metabolism, protein synthesis, development, drug dependence, behaviour, and memory are much too briefly dealt with. Despite these criticisms, the book has value in providing accounts of progress in research (particularly Italian) not readily available. Certain contributions stand out—for example, that on axonal transport of amine granules and nerve terminal function or another on application of micromethods to neurochemistry. Also of special interest is the review by McIlwain on adenosine in neurohumoral and regulatory roles in the brain.

Since emphasis is on the mechanisms of neurotransmission and drug interaction, this book is more suitable for the research-orientated neuropharmacologist than for the general reader.

A. N. DAVISON

ADVANCES IN NEUROSURGERY VOL. 1. BRAIN EDEMA—PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND THERAPY. CEREBELLO-PONTINE ANGLE TUMOURS—DIAGNOSIS AND SURGERY Edited by K. Schurmann, M. Brock, H. J. Reulen, and D. Voth. (Pp. 385; illustrated; DM 60.) Springer: Berlin. 1973.

This soft-backed volume records the *Proceedings of the German Neurosurgical Society* at the 24th annual meeting held in Mainz in May 1973. The meeting coincided with the Otfried Foerster Centenary and many guest speakers participated, accounting for a third of the 65 papers presented. Attention was largely focused on the two topics in the title of the book. The first part, on brain oedema, comprises three sections dealing with pathophysiology, therapy, and intracranial pressure and blood-flow relationships. These 27 papers provide an up-to-date view of current trends in clinical and laboratory research in this important field. The section on the diagnosis and surgical treatment of cerebellopontine angle tumours is less successful because several of the better-known contributors have provided only short and un-