

through the book), more about the surgical risks and endocrine management of pituitary tumours, more about haemangioblastoma, suprasellar germinoma ('atypical teratoma') and the tumours of the pineal region; and more on the treatment of brain stem tumours, the results of which—for example, those reported from the Mayo Clinic in 1969—are not as 'uniformly depressing' as is suggested.

T. B. BREWIN

BRAIN BIOCHEMISTRY By H. S. Bachelard. (Pp. 71; 95p.) Chapman and Hall: London. 1974. †

There is a growing interest within universities in the subject of neurochemistry. The timely publication of this short inexpensive booklet, provides an ideal supplement to introductory lectures in brain biochemistry for both science and medical students. The short introductory chapter on the anatomy and morphology of the brain provides the basis for the remainder of the book, which concentrates on describing the chemical events related to excitability within nervous tissue. Besides referring to metabolism of neurotransmitters, the author summarizes current ideas on cyclic AMP, the nature of cholinergic receptors, and the concept of neuronal-axonal transport. The final chapter describes adaptive processes in the brain. One example of this form of neuronal plasticity is the inducibility of a key 'transmitter-enzyme' tyrosine hydroxylase following release of noradrenaline. Another illustration is adaptation to specific substrates—for example, following ketosis during development, or after administration of glutamate. Control of cerebral enzyme activity is also affected by hormones. These relatively new findings have a special significance to the problem of drug tolerance and dependence discussed in the final few pages of the monograph. The book can be strongly recommended to students and medical graduates who wish to acquire a well-balanced, up-to-date and yet brief account of the essentials of modern neurochemistry. It is well-produced, and the figures and text are both clear and readable.

A. N. DAVISON

HANDBUCH DER NEUROCHIRURGIE VOL. 7, PT 3. PERIPHERES UND SYMPATISCHES NERVENSYSTEM. Edited by H. Olivecrona, W. Tönnis, W. Krenkel, W. Krücke, D. A. Loose, K. E. Loose, K. Pisco, P. Röttgen, O. Stochdorph, and R. Wüllenweber. (Pp. 24; illustrated; DM 620.) Springer: Berlin. 1974.

This tome could have been dedicated to the memory of Foerster: his lasting influence on German neurology is apparent in almost every section. All contributors are German, and they cover some aspects of neurosurgery which are the domain of general and orthopaedic surgeons in this country—that is, peripheral and sympathetic nerve procedures.

The first 240 pages by Krücke on the micro-anatomy and pathology of peripheral nerves is inclusive, and beautifully illustrated, and lists over 800 references: he criticizes the confused nomenclature of neuromas, neurinomas, neurofibromas, and Schwannomas of different, and sometimes the same, authors.

The chapter by Röttgen and Wüllenweber on peripheral nerve surgery of about the same length (1 500 references) seems largely in agreement with the work of Seddon and the teams of the Medical Research Council in the last war. Surgery is contraindicated in phantom limb pain, but advised in the carpal tunnel syndrome; conservative treatment of the latter is dismissed as a waste of time. Lesions of the lateral popliteal nerve are blamed on a combination of slimming and TV gazing.

Stochdorph's 30 pages on the pathology of the vegetative nervous system are disappointing: there is almost nothing about the autonomic neuropathies, and no mention of the exciting experimental work of Levi-Montalcini. Loose and Loose's chapter on surgery of the sympathetic nervous system is uncontroverted, and rightly relegates sympathectomy for hypertension to limbo.

It is a pity that Pisco's outstanding review of operations for the relief of pain should have been misplaced in this volume, as it deals almost exclusively with operations on the cord. His historical review, his excellent account of the physiology of pain, and his critique of the various procedures up to dorsal column stimulation, deserve careful study by medical and surgical neurologists.

E. H. JELLINEK

CLINICAL NEUROSURGERY Vol. 20. Congress of Neurological Surgeons. (Pp. 500; illustrated; \$22-50.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1972.

This book, the 20th volume in a series published annually, records some of the papers presented by distinguished contributors at the meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in Denver, Colorado in 1972.

This volume is devoted mainly to the treatment of traumatic and degenerative lesions of the spine. There are contributions on the management of lumbar discs, stenosis of the lumbar canal, and on the implications for spinal fusion. Problems in the treatment of cervical spondylosis and cervical disc protrusion are extensively considered, and there are