The complexity of the apparatus required for applying the intracellular dyes, and the techniques required for subsequent study and analysis, will confine the techniques to research departments but their potential value is enormous. The filling of single neurones with these dyes and substances allows intracellular anatomical relationships to be studied in a new way which will certainly yield new information. The only fault one can find with the presentation of the many excellent illustrations is the absence of size scales on the photomicrographs and electron-micrographs.

D. DOYLE


This new volume of the Fascicles maintains the high tradition of the series, and will remain one of the comprehensive and authoritative editions for many years. The authors give a very clear account of the anatomy of the chemoreceptors and paraganglia, with adequate information and references to embryology, physiology, and comparative studies. The illustrations—diagrams, dissected specimens, light microscopic and electron microscopic preparations—which have been culled from experts around the globe are of excellent quality.

Every pathology department should have this book for reference. Departments which do not automatically purchase the new editions should consider this as a selective purchase from the series.

D. DOYLE


Intended for medical students and those beginning their training in neurology, this little book was originally published in the French language. Its immediate success justifies an English translation (by Dr Lucien J. Rubinstein) which will undoubtedly increase its circle of admirers. Only those who have tried to write a simplified but correct and comprehensive text for beginners will recognize how well the authors have succeeded. A well-chosen, concise text with excellent line diagrams, tables, and beautifully reproduced photographs provide an admirable introductory account of neuropathology. The hydrodynamic theory of syringomyelia is not included, and a few sections suffer from excessive condensation but there is no doubt that the book successfully fulfills its objective. Indeed, senior clinicians would be glad to have this basic manual.

J. A. SIMPSON


The first edition of this book in 1967 was well-received and covered a much wider range of neurosurgical knowledge than its title indicated. The present volume is a reprint with certain additions and is not described as a second edition. As far as can be seen the bibliography has not been extended beyond 1965, but it is very complete up to that date. Every aspect of neurosurgery is dealt with apart from the surgery of abnormal movements, and of epilepsy. In addition to its main purpose, which is a description of postoperative neurosurgical complications, the book introduces each topic with a historical review and attempts to assess the efficacy of procedures, and reviews the literature very thoroughly for this purpose. It is a most comprehensive account of neurosurgical treatment, not by any means as depressing as its title would suggest. It is written in a clear and easy style, and would prove of value to the trainee as well as to the experienced neurosurgeon. A copy should be available in any unit library or even on a neurosurgical ward. It is a mine of useful information and can be warmly recommended.

JOHN HANKINSON


This book has been translated from Italian and the English edition bears the imprimatur of Maxwell M. Wintrobe. Idiosyncrasies of the translation interfere with the meaning of the text—for example, 'papillary oedema' is not immediately familiar to English readers. Ambiguous terms are used: the word 'marrow' when referring to the spinal cord might well cause confusion in a book on blood diseases. Neologisms such as 'perniciosiform' are painfully prominent.

The authors' creditable efforts to be comprehensive have been at the cost of critical selectivity. There are descriptions of contradictory methods of treatment with no guidance as to which may be the more appropriate. There are bald statements which are contrary to ordinary experience: treatment with vitamin B₁₂ is said to achieve total regression of the neurological disorder in subacute combined de-
A major problem of working scientists is the vast increase in the literature they ought to read. Anything which eases this burden is to be welcomed and anything adding to it to be deplored. Increasingly some publishing houses are producing a bound version of the contributions to research symposia masquerading as books. All four of these volumes in this series from the Raven Press come into this category. There are occasions when it is valuable to take stock of a particular branch of science, especially if advances have been rapid, and an international meeting of research workers is the best way we know of doing this. Only occasionally are these proceedings so valuable in defining the new situation as to merit publication. More often the papers are of a tentative, sometimes speculative, nature because the work is still in progress, they are bereft of the benefits of vigorous refereeing such as they would get if submitted to a reputable journal, and often the same data are, or have been, published in some other form. These disadvantages in my opinion usually outweigh the advantages of having in one (or two!) volumes an account of much of the active work in progress on a particular problem. The lack of editing is particularly reflected in the size of such publications; in the present instance, for example, it requires two volumes to deal with 'serotonin—new vistas' alone.

These volumes, therefore, are not intended for the ordinary reader, nor would they be read in their entirety by even the specialized research worker. The books could not be recommended, therefore, other than possibly as a reference addition to a central library, at whom they were no doubt directed.

J. S. GILLESPIE


This is a modest little volume which most neurologists would like to possess. It is not an original work of scholarship but gathers together translations, and sometimes abbreviations, of some classical descriptions from the neurological literature, previously published in the Archives of Neurology. A review cannot list the 41 chapters which only have in common the historical interest. Neurologists are accused of ancestor worship. This small book is a justification.

J. A. SIMPSON


This book claims to offer 'a compendium of recent reports containing significant information concerning EEG alpha'. The terminology employed and the very patchy type of information are unjustifiable in such a well-printed book. As an example, the first reference (page 3: A.1 'Pioneers in the Electro-physiology of the Nervous System') is related to an exhibit at an international congress, not a publication: 'the exhibit consists of several panels, each depicting the first public description of electro-physiologic discoveries...'. The bibliographical