generation of the cord. There is a recommendation that vitamin B₁₂ should be administered intrathecally. To gain credence, such unconventional statements should be supported by the results of experiment or clinical trial.

There is a formidable bibliography giving access to the continental literature, but again it is disappointing to find no critical guide to the content and value of these papers. In his foreword, Wintrobe says that this book is a welcome addition to the haematological literature. It cannot be so warmly welcomed to the neurologist's library.

IVAN T. DRAPER

ADVANCES IN BIOCHEMICAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY: vol. 9—PHENOTHIAZINES AND STRUCTURALLY RELATED DRUGS; vol. 10—SEROTONIN—NEW VISTAS: HISTOCHEMISTRY AND PHARMACOLOGY; vol. 11—SEROTONIN—NEW VISTAS: BIOCHEMISTRY AND BEHAVIORAL AND CLINICAL STUDIES; vol. 12—NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY OF MONOAMINES AND THEIR REGULATORY ENZYMES Series edited by E. Costa and P. Greengard. (Pp.: vol. 9—818; vol. 10—329; vol. 11—428; vol. 12—462; illustrated; price not stated.) Raven Press: New York. 1974.

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

REGIONAL CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW IN NEUROLOGICAL PATIENTS *Monographs on Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery Series No. 1* By P. C. M. Mosmans. (Pp. 216; F67.50.) Van Gorcum: Assen, The Netherlands 1974.

This monograph details the experience of Dutch workers in measuring cerebral blood flow in 70 patients with neurological disorders. There is a brief and inadequate introductory review of the literature on methodology and cerebrovascular physiology; results are presented in a repetitive, anecdotal, and totally unhelpful way. Although the work is subtitled *Clinical significance (of cerebral blood flow) and correlation with EEG*, the author presents little or no evidence of either. One doubts whether data such as these really merit publication in the form of a book. It certainly cannot be recommended.

J. DOUGLAS MILLER

NEUROLOGICAL CLASSICS Compiled by Robert H. Wilkins and Irwin A. Brody. (Pp. 204; illustrated; \$17.50.) Johnson Reprint Corporation: New York. 1973.

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

THE ALPHA SYLLABUS By Barbara B. Brown, and J. W. Klug. (Pp. 347; \$17.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

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 Electrophysiology 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 electrophysiologic discoveries...'. The bibliographical