

Book reviews

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY OF THE BRAIN AND ORBIT (EMI SCANNING) By Paul F. J. New and William R. Scott. (Pp. 486; illustrated; £39.50.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore, Md. 1975.

Paul New of the Massachusetts General Hospital was the first neuroradiologist in North America to acquire an EMI scanner and it is no surprise that his keen interest and enthusiasm has led to the publication of the first book on this revolutionary diagnostic technique.

Part one deals with the development by Godfrey Hounsfield and the initial trials by James Ambrose at Atkinson Morley's Hospital. Then there are chapters describing the apparatus, the technique, the physical considerations, and the anatomical correlations. The second part is a fully-annotated atlas of pathology with nearly 200 examples of tumours, haematomas, infarcts, hydrocephalus, atrophies, and other lesions, in addition to orbital scans. The material is from the first one-and-a-half years; thus the majority of the scans illustrated are in the original 80×80 matrix, although several in the higher-resolving 160×160 matrix are included. Further technical improvements and changing concepts have already overtaken the book, as, indeed, the authors expected, but the basic facts are substantially unaffected.

It is seldom that a new technique achieves such rapid world-wide acceptance and the authors are to be congratulated on their early production of a volume which will be essential reading for everyone requiring an understanding of the principles and practice of computed tomography.

J. L. STEVEN

PROGRESS IN PAEDIATRIC RADIOLOGY VOL. 5. SKULL, SPINE AND CONTENTS By J. H. Kaufmann. (Pp. 272; illustrated; \$54.00.) Saunders: Philadelphia. 1975.

This series is directed at paediatric radiologists and will also be of interest to general radiologists who provide a paediatric service. The first half of Volume V deals with technical aspects of the radiological procedures and the indications for such procedures. Computed axial tomography has been left to be considered in the sixth volume of the series; it is only mentioned briefly despite the fact that it so profoundly affects the indications for other cranial neurological procedures that some of the discussion is already obsolete.

In the first chapter a detailed account of invasive procedures by Harwood-Nash and Fitz is based on an extensive personal experience and is full of faultless advice.

The following chapters on radionuclide examination of the central nervous system and echo encephalography, with the possible exception of dynamic scintigraphy, are in great measure irrelevant where computed axial tomography is available.

There are detailed chapters on cephalometry (F. N. Silverman) and on skull size, especially in relation to assessment of abnormalities caused by variations in growth of intracranial contents (G. Currarino).

The highlight of the book is a review of acquired cerebral vascular disease in childhood by Roy Strand which is discussed by Isler, Mark Mishkin, Nishimoto and Raimondi. The radiological diagnosis of vascular occlusion is still ultimately dependent on angiography and the contributions in this article are all of current interest. The important publications in the literature on this subject are summarized and although there is a lack of critical comment during the course of the article, the important points are emphasized during the discussion.

The book provides a well written and nicely illustrated review by specialists which will acquaint general radiologists and paediatricians with progress in the fields discussed. The regrettable omission of the effects of computed tomography from the discussions makes the book of less value to those who have access to a C.A.T. scanner but this defect will be remedied in the next volume.

BRIAN KENDALL

EPILEPSY: PROCEEDINGS OF THE HANS BERGER CENTENARY SYMPOSIUM Edited by P. Harris and C. Mawdsley. (Pp. 376, illustrated; £12.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1974.

One becomes increasingly critical of published conference proceedings masquerading as a textbook, and there have recently been some very good books on epilepsy. Nevertheless, this volume of a conference in Edinburgh in 1973 is extremely good, and contains a great deal of up to date research information which is not readily available elsewhere, including assessments of the role of stereotaxic surgery of which the evidence remains largely anecdotal. The Hans Berger Centenary Oration by P. Glow (Montreal) is excellent and the contributions impressively international. While not a systematic textbook, this symposium really does reflect the state of the art.

J. A. SIMPSON