Book reviews

GREENFIELD'S NEUROPATHOLOGY, 3rd ed. Edited by W. Blackwood and J. A. N. Corsellis. (Pp. 946; illustrated; £37.50.) Arnold: London. 1976.

The first two editions of this work rapidly became standard texts, providing a readable, well-illustrated and comprehensive reference volume for workers in the neurosciences and for general pathologists throughout the English-speaking world. The third edition, coming 11 years after the second, will maintain and enhance the reputation achieved by its predecessors. The number of contributors has been increased to 16, the majority clinical neuropathologists, basing their revision on their own considerable experience. In some instances Greenfield's original descriptions of diseases that are becoming rare (neurosyphilis, for example) are largely retained, as is much of Norman's brilliant chapter on malformations and paranatal conditions. But rewriting has been extensive, and much new material added including electron micrographs where appropriate. Storage disorders are described in a new chapter on lysosomal enzyme deficiencies (Crome and Stern) which includes a welcome discussion of their biochemistry. The scope of the work has been extended by new chapters on cerebral hypoxia (Brierley), cerebral trauma (Strich), hypothalamus and pituitary (Daniel and Treip), peripheral nerves (Urich), and muscle (Harriman). A textbook of this standard gives the lie to those who believe that diseases of the nervous system can all be described and diagnosed by paraffin block and HE section.

Of course there are faults, but none serious. Reproduction of illustrations is not always of the highest standard; in some, particularly in the chapter on muscle, an undue reduction in contrast can be detected. The index fails occasionally to refer to conditions which are described in the text; the eponymic names of some syndromes are omitted, which makes it difficult for the condition to be traced. Infantile neuroaxonal dystrophy is not described, but at least a reference is included in the bibliography, which is now ample, including full titles of papers and concluding each chapter.

Inevitably the high cost of the book requires comment. At £37.50 it can be afforded for the bookshelf only by rich foreigners and those with private income; it is disturbing to hear some 20 young pathologists say that they would like to buy

it but cannot, and will have to rely on the library copy: even 'the department' cannot see its way to acquire it, when there are much cheaper (and inferior) texts available. The publisher's dilemma can be understood, with continually rising costs of materials and of craftsmanship. Can a solution not be found in the case of vitally necessary reference works? It is the custom in some European countries for a subsidy to be provided, whether by a charitable research organization, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, or the government itself; the book is then published at a realistic price and often through greatly increased sales the subsidy is recovered.

D. G. F. HARRIMAN

RECENT ADVANCES IN CLINICAL NEUROLOGY—I Edited by W. B. Matthews. (Pp. 340; illustrated; £8.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1975.

Presumably reflecting the fact that neurology is a rapidly advancing area of clinical medicine, the number of series on 'advances' or 'trends' proliferates to back up the conference proceedings with balanced assessments of new work in the context of old. One of the longest established series, *Recent Advances in Neurology and Psychiatry* that owed so much to the late Lord Brain, now appears with a more restrictive title as the first of a new series edited by Professor W. B. Matthews of Oxford. He has chosen his contributors well. These are Oxbury on the right hemisphere and hemispheric disconnection, Glaser on epilepsy, Hutchinson on cerebrovascular disease, Ashworth on neuro-ophthalmology, Mawdsley on Parkinson's disease, the editor on virus infections, Griffith on the surgery of intracranial aneurysms and the arteriovenous malformations, Millar on demyelinating diseases, Foster on syringomyelia, Thomas on peripheral neuropathy and Bradley on inherited diseases of muscle.

All chapters are good and benefit from some unusual approaches to the subject which keep fresh the interest of the reader. They are reasonably up to date, though it is unfortunate that the account of cerebral vasospasm after subarachnoid bleeding does not include recent papers questioning the current evaluation. One might disagree with some authors on matters of