

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 paraneoplastic 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

interpretation. For instance Dr Mawdsley takes the modern stand against 'arteriosclerotic Parkinsonism' but (p. 135) states that patients with arteriosclerotic pseudobulbar palsy 'may have some parkinsonian features as well'. If Parkinsonism is a syndrome, this appears to be a quibble. And I find it difficult to understand how inhibition by anticholinergic drugs of dopamine uptake into the nerve terminals of the corpus striatum leads to dopamine inactivation (p. 138), and I look forward with trepidation to meeting hemizygous males (p. 261). Proof reading is not immaculate but errors are few and the book promises well for a new lease of life of this classic series.

J. A. SIMPSON

ULTRASTRUCTURE OF HUMAN SELLA TUMOURS. CORRELATIONS OF CLINICAL FINDINGS AND MORPHOLOGY By A. M. Landolt. (Pp. 167; illustrated; 110 DM.) Springer-Verlag, Vienna, New York.

This is an important and excellent book which will be welcomed by all who deal with electron microscopy of craniocerebral and endocrine tumours, and by others in clinical practice. Many important references have been brought together which, otherwise, would not be easily obtained and the author has covered all of the important tumours of the pituitary and its environment. He gives clear accounts of the methods of fixation and processing of the tissues and gives a brief account of the normal structure and cytology of the pituitary. Many experimental procedures are cited by which reactions of pituitary cells can be recognized.

The quality of the electronmicrographs is good throughout and the author demonstrates that useful results can also be obtained, if necessary, from paraffin-embedded or formalin-fixed tissues subsequently prepared for electron microscopy.

Many clinicians will find the clinicopathological correlations interesting. The author has worked hard to extract information on endocrine cell types and granule sizes which he relates to functional data.

This book will be much sought after. Its expense, even as a paperback supplement, will be a deterrent to individuals but should not deter libraries.

DAVID DOYLE

NEUROSURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF THE EPILEPSIES Edited by D. P. Purpura, J. K. Penry, and R. D. Walter. (Pp. 356; illustrated; Dfl. 60.00.) North-Holland: Amsterdam. 1975.

We have reviewed a number of books about epilepsy recently. This book, Volume 8 of the *Advances in Neurology* series, is one of the best for the surgical

approach, but incidentally contains a first class account by P. Gloor on the proper use of the EEG. All chapters are excellent, being written by the most prominent American and Canadian workers in this field. The volume as a whole gives an impression of being planned—a pleasant change from the symposium proceedings now offered in place of systematic presentation.

There is proper emphasis on the necessity for adequate and prolonged follow-up for evaluation of surgical treatment. This is well provided for in the chapters on surgery for focal seizures and most readers will be familiar with this. The reviewer hoped to find a definitive statement about the role of stereotactic surgery in the generalised epilepsies. The chapter gives a good historical review of the numerous procedures that have been published but there is no clear statistical assessment of the role of any of them or recommendations about the best target. If we are still at the anecdotal stage it can scarcely be wondered at that neurologists are still sceptical about the neurosurgical management of the epilepsies apart from a very small number of patients with proved focal lesions.

The book is sponsored by the U.S. National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke through their research committee. The monograph is a model of its type.

J. A. SIMPSON

METHODS IN BRAIN RESEARCH By P. B. Bradley. (Pp. 557; illustrated; £18.00.) Wiley: London. 1975.

In this book the editor has collected a number of invited contributions each of which reviews a selected group of technical methods which have been found useful in connection with brain research. Although the book is about technique it is not a technical manual and it does not attempt to give a systematic or comprehensive account of the methods available in what is a very large field of study. Instead, selected topics have been discussed which seem to be of particular interest or likely to give rise to important new developments. The approach is in general critical and in the majority of the articles the attempt is made to review not only the validity of the methods discussed but also to discuss likely areas where advances can be anticipated. Subjects which are considered by the authors, who are all established workers in their particular field, include neuro-anatomical methods, both at a histological and microchemical level, microelectrode techniques and tissue culture. There is a final group of chapters on operant conditioning, self-stimulation, ethology, and psychosurgery.

On the whole, the book succeeds in achieving its