

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