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


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...