of these does the author suggest a relationship with abnormalities of the autonomic nervous system. It is similarly uncertain whether the chapter on the pineal gland, and much of the chapter on respiration and its disorders, deserve their place here. The disadvantage of this extra material may be that the reader has additional difficulty in finding the item on the autonomic nervous system which he seeks, and which is probably there for him if he can find it. The standard of production is excellent.

J. M. K. SPALDING

Subarachnoid Hemorrhage and Cerebrovascular Spasm By Robert R. Smith and James T. Robertson. (Pp. 268; illustrated; $26.50.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1975. The baffling problem of cerebral vaso-spasms after subarachnoid haemorrhage continues to excite the interest of surgeons as well as research workers. Although unpredictable in its onset and in its extent, it exerts a profound influence on the degree of brain damage and on the timing of operation.

This useful monograph brings together much important information—physiological, pharmacological, and pathological as well as clinical—and it is a useful summary of the various attempts that have been made to find a suitable experimental model for this important variety of cerebral vascular disease.

W. ROSS RUSSELL

Handbook of Spinal Cord Medicine By David C. Burke and D. Duncan Murray. (Pp. 90; illustrated; £1.45.) Macmillan: London. 1975. A brief notice is justified for a small book for the pocket of house officers and others working in a paraplegia unit. It achieves its purpose very well. When it is revised, surely some mention of the plantar responses should be made in the description of upper motor neurone signs, and Fig. 1 should be modified to illustrate the account of sacral sparing. (Indeed the dermatome diagrams do not match). Persistence of reflexes in 'spinal shock' is attributed to 'the electrical charge remaining in the isolated cord' until it is 'finally dissipated'. Spinal injury and its management is a field of strong and not always rational conviction, but the advice on management will be generally acceptable. It is good value.

J. A. SIMPSON

Advances in the Drug Therapy of Mental Illness (Pp. 168; Price not stated.) World Health Organisation: Geneva. 1976. This book is a compilation of a symposium held in 1973, and consists of 21 papers on various aspects of drug therapy, 13 in English and three in French. Although there has been a delay in publication, some effort has been made to update a number of the contributions. The topics cover a wide range, and include essays on the interaction of drugs with other therapies, the ethics of drug research, and the pathophysiology of schizophrenia. There is a particularly thoughtful paper by Van Praag on 'New developments in human psychopharmacology. This collection is unlikely to be of great use to medical students or non-psychiatrists, but for the psychiatrist and research worker in this field it is a useful and sometimes stimulating review. The English price is not stated but unless it is very reasonably priced, it is probably a book for the library rather than the personal collection.

CRAGIE MACFIE

Books received


