Book reviews

Neurology for the House Officer

How to Examine the Nervous System
By R. T. Ross. (Pp. 124; illustrated; $6.50.)

How to Examine the Nervous System is a simple book which again can only serve to improve clinical neurological skills.

There are better books available covering the fields represented here but nevertheless I would recommend that these two be carried in every junior staff white coat pocket.

L. S. Illis

Human Health and Disease
Edited by Philip L. Altman and Dorothy D. Katz.
(Pp. 435; illustrated; £28.00.)

The general concept of this series of Biological Handbooks is good, being an attempt to provide quantitative data on clinical medicine, excluding treatment. It is reasonably successful for metabolic problems but it is difficult to imagine a practical use for the material tabulated in the section on Neurologic Diseases except as a source of references—not necessarily the best, but at least an entry to appropriate literature (if you already know the diagnosis). The increasingly quantitative treatment of electromyography is not included, and CSF abnormalities are difficult to trace. Otherwise I find it difficult to think of suitable items for inclusion. Perhaps the neurologist has to rely more on "soft data" than most other specialists. He will unfortunately find little to help him here.

J. A. Simpson

Atlas of the Human Brain
Third edition By D. H. Ford, J. Illari, and J. P. Schade. (Pp. x +294; illustrated; $19.95, Dfl. 46.00.)

When I reviewed the second edition of this atlas in columns in 1971, I was impressed by it and commented on the high standard of the illustrations. Unfortunately the same standard has not been achieved in this "new and revised" edition, and the atlas inevitably suffers as a result. Nonetheless it remains a useful and concise account of the anatomy of the brain, and I am pleased to note that the authors have on this occasion adopted the anglicised version of the Nomina Anatomica. Additions include a few angiograms which are also not of particularly high quality, and a section on pathological correlations with anatomy. This might be of some interest to the anatomist but will appear very superficial to the pathologist or the neurologist—it is, however, interesting to note that thrombosis of the posterior cerebral artery may produce an infarct in the dorso-lateral quadrant of the medulla! There is also a chapter on computerised tomography: this does not incorporate scans but it does illustrate sections of the brain in planes comparable to those scanned in computerised topography. The atlas shall probably find these illustrations of some use, but in other respects preferred the previous edition.

Hume Adair

Atlas of Carotid Angiography
Edited by M. Takahashi. (Pp. 525; illustrated; Dutch guilders 236.)

This is an excellent atlas. Nearly 600 reproductions of X-rays, all subtraction, provide a clear picture of all aspects of carotid angiography. Angiographic techniques are briefly but adequately described, and the detailed illustrated account of the radiographic anatomy of the arterial and venous systems is superbly done.

Only a quarter of the book is devoted to neoplasms with roughly the same space allocated to aneurysms, arterial venous fistulae, and vascular occlusive disease. The book, therefore, provides a valuable complement to the results of computer assisted tomography in the definition of intracranial lesions.

Every department concerned with the training and practice of neuroradiology will need to make this reference book available to all levels of staff.

The author expresses the hope that this volume will be "received as well as his previous work on vertebral angiography." In view of its quality there can be little doubt on this score.

E. C. Hutchins