fluous or inadequate. It is of little value as a guide to spelling. Neither of the two most common errors submitted to this Journal—sagittal and interosseous—are listed, and European accented spelling is unreliable (noyau centr median). Nucleus coeruleus does not appear under any of the current spellings.

J. A. SIMPSON

Cerebral Vascular Smooth Muscle and Its Control Ciba Foundation Symposium 56 (new series). (Pp. 400; illustrated \$35.50, Dfl 81.60.) Elsevier, Excerpta Medica, North-Holland: Amsterdam, Oxford, New York. 1978. The reasons for holding this symposium were several: the technical advances in the measurement of regional and micro-cerebral blood flow and metabolism which have been made in the last decade; increasing evidence of the involvement of ions and other substances in the coupling of blood flow and metabolism; and recognition of neural factors in control of cerebral blood flow but uncertainty as to their exact role. These subjects have been dealt with in numerous symposia. The idea behind this one was to discuss the problems in one forum, not so much in the hope of finding "the answers" but more to ascertain what questions should be asked and what further experiments planned.

The papers covered so wide a range of subjects that it would be impossible to review them adequately. What emerged was the impossibility, on present evidence, of accepting H^+ , K^+ , adenosine or indeed any other substance as the sole link between metabolic needs and blood flow. It is much more likely that the link is multifactorial. There is still the problem as to whether neural control is significantly involved in normal adjustment of blood flow to metabolic needs, or whether its contribution is only significant when the system is under stress. Finally, the hypothesis (for which there is much evidence) that large vessels which are innervated may constrict, leading to dilatation of downstream small vessels of less than 25 μm which appear not to be innervated needs to be explained. Present techniques which permit both regional and micro-flow to be measured permit this.

Those interested in the cerebral circulation will find this a stimulating book.

JOHN MARSHALL

Neurological Classics in Modern Translation Edited by David A. Rottenberg and Fred H. Hochberg. (Pp. 316; illustrated; £16.95, \$30.95.) Macmillan: London. 1977.

It would be absurd to review the papers reprinted in this book. They are all classics which have stood the test of time. But it is rewarding to find how interesting they are, with fresh insights for the reader who has the labour of translation removed. The editors are to be congratulated on the selection of papers but also on the experts they have recruited to introduce the papers and place them in a modern context. Beginning with Cajal's "New concept of the histology of the central nervous system", there are groups of papers on presenile dementia (Pick, Alzheimer, Bonfiglio), on alcoholic dementia (Wernicke, Morel, Marchiafava and Bignami), myoclonic dementia (Creutzfeldt, Jacob), dysphasia, dyspraxia, and disorders of the body image (Babinski, Broca, Gerstmann, Liepmann), thalamic syndrome (Dejerine and Roussy), spinocerebellar degenerations (Marie, Dejerine and Thomas, Roussy and Levy), narcolepsy (Glieu), and infectious polyneuritis (Landry, Guillain, Barr and Strohl).

Perhaps the editors would consider a second volume with the best of Hughlings Jackson, Gowers, Erb, Duchenne, Gordon Holmes, and many others. Doubtless the fact that many of these are available in English accounts for their omission from the present useful compilation.

J. A. SIMPSON

A Colour Atlas of Neuropathology By C. S. Treip. (Pp. 208; illustrated; £15.00.) Wolfe Medical Publications: London. 1978.

There has been a growing demand, particularly in laboratory medicine, for atlas presentations, and *A Colour Atlas of Neuropathology* is one of a series dealing with clinical and pathological topics. It is intended as an introduction to the subject for senior medical students, trainee general pathologists, and clinicians in the neurological specialities. Inevitably the presentation of any subject in the form of a colour atlas has limitations. Unless the student uses such a book in conjunction with a more detailed text he will not have sufficient factual background to go through the necessary scientific reasoning which

makes histological abnormality easier to understand. Within these general constraints, this book is useful and fulfils the author's aims.

The introductory chapter deals with normal histology and with the pathological reactions of the cells of the nervous system. The photomicrographs in this chapter are helpful but inevitably the fundamentals of pathological reaction in the nervous system cannot be discussed in detail in the text which, therefore, must be amplified by wider reading. Subsequent chapters deal with the important aspects of the more common diseases of the nervous system. Rarities have rightly been excluded, and although in a short text it is often difficult to emphasise the common and play down the esoteric, the author has achieved a happy balance. The ultimate value of a pathological atlas depends on the number and quality of the photographs and in this book photographic standards are generally good. Naked eye photographs are mostly in black and white, photomicrographs are coloured. As a minor criticism, one might suggest that different magnifications might have been used for some of the photographs. For example, the characteristic inflammatory reaction of tuberculous meningitis is probably seen best at higher magnifications. The definition of other photomicrographs for example, those of medulloblastoma, could be improved. In general, however, this is a well-produced book with a clear text from which information can be obtained easily. It is a good introduction to neuropathology.

INGRID V. ALLEN

Human Brainstem Vessels By Henri M. Duvernoy. (Pp. 188; illustrated DM 290, \$133.40.) Springer-Verlag: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York. 1978. Professor Duvernoy's work of great scholarship is based on extensive patient researches over many years during which his contributions have included important studies of pituitary circulation and a monograph on *The Superficial Veins of the Human Brain* published by the same house in 1975.

Continuity from his earlier work is clear in the present text and illustrations where the fields of arterial supply and venous drainage are described succinctly. The whole text is economical and clear, decisively