

photocopying process which is commendably speedy but also provokes migraine in susceptible readers. The conference language was English—the editors were not!

R. W. ROSS RUSSELL

Pathology of Peripheral Nerves By R. O. Weller and J. Cervós-Navarro. (Pp. 225; illustrated; £13.50.) Butterworths: London and Boston. 1977.

This book attempts to fill a loophole between the works on neuropathology and muscle pathology, and deals, in the middle third of its 214 pages, with general pathology of peripheral nerve and the pathology of peripheral nerve diseases. This has been no easy task for it is difficult to think of the nerves in disease without considering their cell bodies, synapses, and specialised endings. Where necessary, brief references are made to these matters while concentrating on the results of biopsy or necropsy studies of nerves. The technique of sural nerve biopsy and the ruinous consequences of inept handling are described. The laboratory work is not dealt with in detail but each technique is covered by references to original descriptions or standard laboratory technical books.

For the majority of those who would be attracted by the title of this book the technical section may seem unrewarding and the final third of the book, devoted to descriptions of tumour pathology which are available elsewhere, may seem unbalanced.

This volume is highly priced for what it yields, but it will probably be welcomed by laboratories with neurological interests because it brings together many references to widely scattered old and very new work on axonal injury, regeneration, "dying-back", myelination, dysmyelination nodes and internodes, and Schwann cell biology.

DAVID DOYLE

Multiple Sclerosis—A Critical Conspectus Edited by E. J. Field. (Pp. 265; illustrated; £9.95.) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1977.

The stated purpose of this small, multi-authored book is to highlight "the shortcomings of our approaches" to the study of multiple sclerosis, to help the general physician understand why

neurologists have failed to solve the problem, and to direct the attention of young neurobiologists towards this illness. Unfortunately, our ignorance of multiple sclerosis is still all too apparent and, with so many excellent monographs and publications on the subject available, I cannot see why this book was produced. Most of the experimental virological and immunological data given are highly controversial and would not be accepted by the majority of established workers in the field. I find the clinical account poor, since it adds nothing and tends towards the anecdotal. The research worker will not require this book, the clinician unaware of the existing controversies will be confused by it, and the novice will be misled. I cannot recommend it.

PETER O. BEHAN

Remembering Henry Edited by Stephen Lock and Heather Windle. (Pp. 166; £3.00.) British Medical Association: London. 1977.

THE GREAT CHAM

Portrait painters as opposed to mere photographers inevitably incorporate into their works the fundamental features of their own personalities. Most Johnsonians discern in Boswell's "Life" of his great master all the elements of the writer's own character. This present collection of written portraits, engagingly assembled by Stephen Lock and Heather Windle, has produced a distillate, at once fascinating and charming, of the subtle emotional and intellectual forces at work between the subject and the authors. It is truly a homely *Festschrift* (how Henry himself would have castigated that turgid term!), for this splendid volume, dedicated to the memory of a remarkable ornament of the neurological and academic scene, recalls vividly to those who knew him, and evokes for those whose misfortune was not to have done so, all the charisma of a unique personality. The enterprise, whether by design or happy accident, succeeds beyond expectation, for each contribution springs from the special relationship established between each of the writers and their mutual subject, and so creates a true hologrammatic image of a man whom they (and we) knew and cherished. The contributions range from the austere, and not always uncritical, appreciation through personal devotion

and at times justifiable frank idolatry. It would be invidious to select any particular section for special mention. Suffice it to say that all are eminent, readable and occasionally quite uproarious.

The three final sections of the monograph are selections from Henry's own writing—his account of accident neurosis, his essay on medical education entitled "Fifty years after Flexner", and finally that devastating broadside fire in response to what one can only assume to be a wilful masochistic invitation to the World Psychiatry Symposium of 1969 and entitled "Psychiatry—medicine or magic?"

If you have not already bought this book, send a minion out at once to collect it. It will please you too.

L. A. LIVERSEDGE

Notices

An International Symposium on Peripheral Neuropathies will be held in Milan, Italy from 26 to 28 June 1978. Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretariat, Symposium on Peripheral Neuropathies, Ospedale S. Raffaele 20090 Segrate (Milan) Italy. Telephone 02-2134041.

On the occasion of the 50 year Jubilee of Aarhus University a **Symposium on Nervous System Abnormalities and Nervous Diseases in Diabetes Mellitus** will be held from 31 August to 1 September 1978. A limited number of short free communications will be accepted. For further information please write to Professor K. Lundbæk, 2nd University Clinic of Internal Medicine, Kommune hospital, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark.

The 4th International Symposium on Microsurgical Anastomoses for Cerebral Ischemia will be held in London Ontario from 6 to 8 September 1978. Neurosurgeons and other neuroscientists interested in the problems of cerebral ischemia and revascularisation of the brain are invited to participate. For information please write to S. J. Peers, MD, FRCS(C), Division of Neurosurgery, University Hospital, Box 5339 Terminal "A", London, Ontario. N6A 5A5 Canada.