

Hypoxia and Ischaemia Edited by B. C. Morson. (Pp. 190; illustrated; £5.00.) Journal of Clinical Pathology, British Medical Association: London, 1977.

A clinician with a specialist training may well approach this report of a symposium with some misgiving because of the wide scope of the effects of hypoxia and ischaemia. In fact, the editor's expressed belief that the report will have value beyond the pathologist's field is amply justified. In less than 200 pages the whole range of the subject obviously cannot be covered in depth but what is described is done expertly. The black and white illustrations are excellent.

The common thread of reaction in circulations of, for example, bone and peripheral nerve is fascinating as are the differences in the response. The fact that many contributors have more than a passing clinical interest adds to the value of the reports.

The five contributions directly concerning the central nervous system alone make it a worthwhile purchase for a neurologist and, no doubt, will have the same appeal to other disciplines.

E. C. HUTCHINSON

Neurolinguistics 2, 3, and 4 Edited by Yvan Lebrun and Richard Hoops. Swetz and Zeitlinger: Amsterdam, 1976. These three volumes from a series of books on neurolinguistics are difficult to review fairly. Numbers 2 and 4, *Intelligence and Aphasia*, and *Recovery in Aphasics* are the collected papers from international conferences, and they present the incomplete, and at times contradictory, views which one might anticipate. Volume 3, *Neologistic Jargon Aphasia*, is the work of two authors (Hugh W. Buckingham and Andrew Kertesz) who present a systematic review of their subject. The basis or stimulus for this book is a study of three patients.

The literature on aphasia is a rich source of unharmonious technical jargon, and there are a number of mind stopping devices in these papers. Lengthy quotations from the original French and German, the interruption of prose with statistics and tests of significance, and the liberal use of specialised abbreviations make consecutive reading difficult.

There is a lot of interesting material but I regretted the general lack of fluency.

I. T. DRAPER

Letters

Metabolic aspects of classical motor neurone disease

SIR,—The interesting article by Saffer *et al.* (1977) brings out the salient points relating to the metabolic aspects of classical motor neurone disease. I would like to draw your attention to our earlier report (Mascreen and Valmikinathan, 1973) of mild elevation of citrate in classical motor neurone disease.

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References

- Mascreen, M., and Valmikinathan, K. (1973). Citrate and pyruvate studies in classical motor neurone disease. *Proceedings of the Institute of Neurology, Madras*, 3, 103–104.
Saffer, D., Morley, J., and Bill, P. L. A. (1977). Carbohydrate metabolism in motor neurone disease. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry*, 40, 533–537.

An international nomenclature of diseases

SIR,—The Council for International Organisations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) conjointly with the World Health Organisation is engaged in a project for an International Nomenclature of Diseases, whose object is to provide a method by which medical practitioners throughout the world, when using a term to describe a disease, would use it in the same way. This it is believed would simplify communication and complement the statistical information based on the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Disease. The project is receiving support from the United States Public Health Service and fascicles presenting

a provisional international nomenclature of certain systems have already been published. Work is underway on a fascicle dealing with the nomenclature of disorders of the nervous system, and it may be that there are readers of your journal who would wish to collaborate in this project. If they would communicate their interest to us, we would be happy to provide further information to enable them to decide whether they would wish to take part in this endeavour.

We trust that we may keep your readers informed from time to time as to the progress of the project.

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Notices

The IVth International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases will be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from 17 to 21 September 1978. An interesting programme of invited symposia, invited poster sessions, and free communications (platform and poster sessions) has been planned. The symposia are (1) Cell membranes and muscle disease, (2) Toxic disorders of nerve, (3) Cell interactions in the peripheral nervous system, (4) Metabolic aspects of muscle and nerve, (5) Nerve structure and function, (6) Acetylcholine receptors and myasthenia gravis, (7) Developmental disorders of muscle.

Information may be obtained from: The Secretariat, IVth International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases, 3587 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2B1.

The Fourth International Symposium on Intracranial Pressure will be held at the Conference Center, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA, from 10 to 14 June 1979. For information please write to J. D. Miller, MD, Box A, MCV Station, Richmond, Virginia 23298, USA.