

traction and joint rigidity, disorders of movement, and systemic involvement in muscular disease. This is undoubtedly one of the best illustrated books in this field; each chapter contains copious photographic illustrations of the clinical syndromes and biopsy material. The text is laced with references to the literature with 19 pages occupied by the list of references.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book and learned a great deal from it. I have no hesitation in recommending it unreservedly to all who are interested in neuromuscular disorders of childhood.

J. P. BALLANTYNE

**Lumbar Spondylosis: Diagnosis, Management and Surgical Treatment** By P. R. Weinstein, G. Ehni, and C. B. Wilson. (Pp. 203; illustrated; £18.00.) Year Book Medical Publishers: Chicago, London. 1977.

This is a clear, readable, and comprehensive review by American neurosurgeons of the topical condition of lumbar spinal stenosis. Careful delineation of syndromes helps to minimise the ever present risk of this becoming a "garbage can" diagnosis. It is important to treat patients, not myelograms. In a condition with admittedly bizarre and varied presentations it is unfortunate that no attempt is made to distinguish it from the psychosocial aspects of back pain. The surgical series described is very varied, and the follow-up of results gives little detail and is too uncritical: this may permit some scepticism about claimed results. Despite these criticisms, I would recommend this book to be read by everyone involved in the selection for and performance of lumbar spine surgery.

GORDON WADDELL

**Du Contrôle Moteur à l'Organisation du Geste** Edited by H. Hécaen and M. Jeannerod. (Pp. 448; illustrated; price not stated.) Masson: Paris. 1978.

This book is based on a course of lectures given in 1974-75 at the School of Higher Studies and Social Sciences in Paris. Although its main theme and purpose is to explore current concepts concerning gesture and language the subject matter is more widely based and includes extensive sections on the physiology of motor control, reflexes, and the sensory control of motor be-

haviour. The contributors are, in general, workers in their respective fields, and each chapter has an extensive bibliography. The later sections, which are concerned with the apraxias and relationships between language and gesture, are of considerable interest to anyone concerned with problems of speech and nonverbal communication, and the book as a whole brings together a great deal of useful material which is not elsewhere to be found in a single volume. It can be recommended to anyone with a serious interest in the fields of language and motor control.

J. A. R. LENMAN

**The Management of Aphasia. Neuro-linguistics 8** Edited by Y. Lebrun and R. Hoops. (Pp. 123; illustrated; Dutch guilders 45.00.) Swets and Zeitlinger: Amsterdam and Lisse. 1978.

The title of the series in which this book appears suggests that its intended readership is restricted to neurolinguists: this is far from the case. Doctors, speech therapists, social psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers will find much of value in it. The nine papers, mostly by European experts, lay considerable, and very necessary, emphasis on the total *management*, not just the treatment, of the aphasic. Kinsella and Duffy's *The Spouse of the Aphasic Patient*, Heilporn's *The Socio-professional Rehabilitation of Neurologically Handicapped People*, and Lebrun *et al.*'s *Aphasia and Fitness to Drive* provide extensive and mostly original documentation on the wider social problems of the aphasic. Some of their conclusions deserve to be studied carefully by anyone, for example, counselling an aphasic's family.

Four papers by Basso, Sefer, Seron *et al.*, and von Stockert discuss from rather different points of view the actual linguistic "treatment" of the aphasic. Sefer's contribution is the most traditional in character and will probably appeal to student speech therapists; the others are much more original. Seron *et al.* provide a very cogent summary of the operant and "non-operant" methods of aphasia treatment; von Stockert shows—convincingly to my mind—the validity of using Weigl's deblocking techniques.

In a further paper Lebrun discusses some of the literature on aphasia as

seen from an aphasic's point of view. Lastly, Vidali sets out details of some of the provisions made within the European Economic Community for the rehabilitation of the disabled.

Altogether, this book is a very welcome addition to the literature, and anyone who works in the field (or jungle) of aphasia would be well advised to read it. It will undoubtedly help to modify the unrealistic view that aphasia is merely a breakdown of language with a few additional complications.

M. K. C. MACMAHON

**Aspects of Memory** Edited by Michael Gruneberg and Peter Morris. (Pp. 220; £8.00.) Methuen: London. 1978.

This book will be a useful introduction for the undergraduate studying the topic of memory, or indeed for the interested layman. A valuable chapter on the techniques and materials used in the experimental investigation of memory is followed by a clear account of the theoretical issues raised by these experiments, and the evidence for the various models of memory is evaluated.

The scope, however, is wider than that of most basic texts—it includes investigation into developmental changes in memory, and also research into mental handicap. One chapter offers a view of an alternative approach—that of physiology—and how this discipline can contribute to our knowledge. The aspects of memory selected by the editors make for an informative and readable account of current work on the subject.

JEAN SIMPSON

## Notice

**The Ninth International Symposium of the Fulton Society on Neuropeptides in the Brain** will be held on 3 October 1979, one day ahead of the meeting of the American Neurological Association in St Louis, Missouri. Further information may be obtained from Professor Victor Soriano, Calle Buenos Aires 363, Montevideo, Uruguay.