Book reviews

Nerves and Nerve Injuries Second edition By Sir Sydney Sunderland. (Pp. 1046; illustrated; £55.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, London, and New York. 1978.

No single reader could review this major work authoritatively. That is a measure of the immense work encompassed in this unique book which is beyond the scope of lesser writers than Sir Sydney. It has everything about peripheral nerve anatomy and physiology required by a surgeon, and enormous detail about injury, but not about operative techniques. Well, almost everything—I found it surprising to have a lot of information about degeneration and regeneration of nerve and muscle without a discussion of motor endplates and no details about receptors. They are not even indexed. For instance, I wanted to know if receptors are entities which can be re-innervated (as the author implies) or if they are specialised expansions of the axon.

Naturally Sir Sydney has his own interpretation in debatable areas such as entrapment neuropathy and his Turbulence Hypothesis of causalgia, but he modestly omits the latter from the index. This second edition of a well-established reference book is essential for all interested in peripheral nerve surgery.

J. A. SIMPSON

Advances in Neurology Volume 20 Pathology of Cerebrospinal Microcirculation Edited by J. Cervós-Navarro, E. Betz, G. Ebhart, R. Ferszt, and R. Wüllenweber. (Pp. xxvi+606; illustrated; \$58.50.) Raven Press: New York. 1978.

This multi-author book is based on the Proceedings of the International Erwin Riesch symposium on the pathology of the cerebrospinal microcirculation held in Berlin from 7–10 September 1977.

There are 67 contributions that have been so arranged that the volume is divided into two main parts. The first deals with the structural basis and dynamics of the microcirculation in the brain. Topics covered include the morphological characterisation of small vessels by ultrastructural and histo-

chemical techniques, and the vasomotor response to cations, anions, and various biogenic amines. The second and longer part of the book deals with specific pathological conditions and their study by new techniques in a variety of experimental models. Included are studies of focal and regional ischaemia induced by air and microsphere embolism, the coupling of function, metabolism and blood flow, brain oedema, and the blood-brain barrier. Experimental hypertension and trauma to the spinal cord, because of their clinical relevance, are covered extensively. The concluding contributions cover a wide range of disorders that include vascular changes in the aging brain, the response of the cerebral vessels to head injury and subarachnoid haemorrhage, and the electron microscopic appearances of angiomas, cerebral aneurysms, and the microvasculature of gliomas.

This book is the biannual sequel to similar symposia held in 1973 and 1975. As previously, the editors have succeeded in arranging a series of essentially well-written and liberally illustrated studies on the pathophysiology of the microcirculation of the brain and spinal cord. These proceedings serve as a very useful source of information and, therefore, achieve the primary objective of updating the interested clinician, pathologist, and research worker in this field. This interesting book is strongly recommended.

D. I. GRAHAM

The Cervical Syndrome Fourth Edition By Ruth Jackson. (Pp. 399; illustrated; \$19.50.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1978.

Dr Ruth Jackson is an orthopaedic surgeon in Dallas. This monograph reflects her vast experience of disorders of the cervical spine. Anatomy is described in depth, with the help of x-rays and line diagrams. The mechanism of cervical root irritation is then discussed, followed by a chapter devoted to the aetiology which lends inevitable emphasis to road traffic accidents but which also comments upon nontraumatic conditions including arthritis and neoplasia. Structural changes caused in the neck

by trauma, then the relevant symptoms are described. Emphasis is placed upon clinical examination and apt comment made about correct selection of x-ray views. A useful chapter on differential diagnosis reminds the reader of many pitfalls.

The last chapter is concerned with treatment, but begins with a section on prevention of trauma, including detailed comment on the design of a "survival car". Conservative and surgical therapies are discussed, and for the latter we are reminded that care and selection matter more than technique. Illustrations, mainly by x-rays, is adequate.

The text is generously endowed with descriptive case histories. The bibliography lists published work mainly from North America, with European and other contributors almost ignored. I recommend this book.

W. F. DURWARD

Propranolol and Schizophrenia Edited by Eugene Roberts and Peter Amacher. (Pp. 152; illustrated; \$15.00.) Alan R. Liss: New York. 1978.

In time-honoured fashion propranolol has been used in the treatment of schizophrenia for no very good reason and, following what has almost become a tradition in pharmacopsychiatry, it has been used in massive dosage. This volume contains some of the papers presented at a conference of psychiatrists and pharmacologists held in December 1976. Half of the book consists of detailed descriptive papers given by two groups of clinicians who have been impressed by the efficacy of propranolol in controlling schizophrenic symptoms: these make it most helpful to anyone wishing to assess the drug in his own clinical practice. While enthusiastic, the authors accept that the role of propranolol is not established (frequent reference is made to "false dawns"), and the results of a small controlled study are presented. The pharmacologists describe what is known of the cerebral effects of propranolol, mainly on neural metabolism and blood flow rather than synaptic mechanisms. It remains to be seen whether these interesting fragments are part of a coherent picture in which psychosis is one of the details.

R. N. HERRINGTON