Paediatric neurology has rapidly developed and very good textbooks have appeared in Paediatric EEG (Dumermuth in 1965; Laget and Salbreux in 1965; and Werner, Stockard and Bickford in 1977). Gibbs and Gibbs decided to prepare their fourth Atlas of EEG to cover the first year of life in both health and disease with full size reproductions of EEGs. The sampling of the illustrations is based on 358 clinically normal infants (control subjects), 272 premature infants, 36 postmature infants and 1,413 clinically abnormal babies, a substantial experience. The emphasis is on the greater clinical value of repeated EEGs on the same subject than of an isolated test. An increasing EEG abnormality usually suggests an increase in the underlying pathological process, while a decreasing EEG abnormality suggests that the process is decreasing in severity: these points form the basis for further tuition. The somewhat didactic presentation is supported by an enormous amount of details including percentages of findings of one or other of the 20 main varieties of EEG features selected by the authors. The last chapter, on the follow-up of clinically abnormal infants ranging from a few months to nearly 14 years, is of very considerable interest.

A referential method (by some called monopolar) has been employed, as in all other Gibbs' Atlases, the common reference being the earlobes with sensitivity (amplification) of 50 microvolts/6 mm pen deflection. The time constant employed is not mentioned but was probably that used in the majority of American EEG Departments (0.12 seconds). In the majority of centres in Europe a longer time constant is used (0.3 to 1 second) so that the very slow components, particularly in the new born and premature, are better recorded and not so grossly attenuated.

All the reproductions of EEGs are of very good quality and the fine details are well presented even if both top and bottom of large amplitude phenomena are cut off beyond a peak to peak excursion of about 2½ cms. The bibliography contains some 419 references, the great majority before 1973. The subject index though relatively short is useful as it includes not only the aspects discussed in the chapters, or shown in the Atlas, but

also those selected for the "foldouts".

The Atlas is accompanied by a Teaching Collection of 52 EEG "foldouts" stored in a separate little case. Each "foldout" is a multi-page reproduction of a longer EEG record and includes for each child a period during the waking state and another during sleep: the carefully chosen examples of various patterns are accompanied by a brief clinical history.

As a teaching Atlas, Volume IV of the Gibbs' will be of particular help to beginners in electroencephalography whether at medical student or postgraduate level and both the experienced electroencephalographer and the beginner will learn a great deal from it. The publishers should be congratulated on the clarity of the print, the proportions of the tables and the reproduction of the EEGs. The cost of this elegant presentation, however, is very high.

G PAMPIGLIONE

Current Practice of Clinical Electroencephalography Edited by DW Klass and DD Daly (pp 544; illustrated; \$58.50) Raven Press, New York, 1979. This book has been published in 1979, half a century after the first paper by Hans Berger on human EEG. The two eminent editors have succeeded in collecting much information for a better understanding of current trends in clinical EEG. There are twelve contributors of high international reputation, each one covering one or more chapters, providing one of the best text books on EEG to date. Of course, the orientation is towards the American practice but it is refreshing that the recommended "minimum technical requirements" are much more in keeping with the practice used in the best EEG Departments in Britain rather than with the large majority of the EEG Units both in Europe and America. However, this book will help a great deal not only in improving technical details but also in providing a better understanding of how to utilise the EEG in busy hospital centres whether at adult or paediatric level.

Each chapter is rich in illustrations with excellently reproduced EEGs. The text is very clear and backed by a considerable number of references (mostly American) even if those after

1974 are few in many chapters. This book covers the "standards of competence" in clinical EEG as set by the American Board of Qualifications in EEG.

A particularly unusual section and a very useful one consists of 23 pages of "Discussions" with questions from an audience and answers from the authors of each chapter. This book is recommended not only to those who wish to specialise in the EEG field but also to general physicians, surgeons, anaesthetists and especially clinical neurologists who may not have the opportunity to appreciate the scope and limitations of Clinical EEG.

G PAMPIGLIONE

Clinical Neuroimmunology edited by F Clifford Rose (pp 526; £25) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publishers 1978.

When a reviewer submits his copy later than he should it indicates that the book is boring or that it has been so useful that he has been compelled to read it from cover to cover between other commitments. This volume is firmly in the second category. Early investment in immunology in neurological research is now beginning to pay dividends. This is largely due to the rapid increase in techniques of investigation and understanding of immunological mechanisms coupled with new insights. Anergy is now more important than allergy in pathogenesis. Although based on a Mansell Bequest symposium at the Medical Society of London in 1977, the book is in fact a comprehensive account of neuroimmunology including very good introductory chapters on mechanisms. It is impossible to list all 38 chapters and invidious to select a few from the many excellent contributions but the scope of the book is indicated by the section headings; general aspects, muscle disease, peripheral neuropathies, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, virology, malignancy, therapy. Dr Clifford Rose is to be congratulated on obtaining so many first rank contributors and on his success in editing these into the best book on the subject currently available.

JA SIMPSON