mation conveniently presented here which has not been reviewed elsewhere. The major contribution of this book lies in its two chapters on the range of normal and pathological findings in diseased nerve. The two other chapters covering physiological principles and examination techniques seem only to have been added to expand the text suitably for presentation as a separate volume. They deal with the familiar matters of excitation and conduction of the nerve impulse, use of averaging techniques, and types of electrodes, which are found in any treatment of the subject. The sections of importance in these two chapters on measurement of signals, and the authors' own data on temperature effects on conduction velocity, cover only four pages.

In contrast, the chapter describing the normal range of sensory conduction values contains an invaluable compilation of tables and graphs (most of which, throughout the book, are taken from the authors' own data) showing how conduction velocity and amplitude of the sensory action potential vary with age. There are also short sections covering the relative refractory periods, conduction of impulse trains, and slow conducting components of the neural volley, in the median and sural nerves. The final chapter surveys the changes found in diseased nerve, and ends with a short and useful section which attempts to relate neurographic and morphological changes in the nerve. It is in this chapter that the decimal numbering system for subheadings finally gets out of hand, when no less than six digits and five decimal points are needed to classify carpal tunnel syndrome.

The discussions of the relative merits of sensory recording as compared with motor recording are necessarily rather brief in this handbook, and one is left wanting a more complete, textbook treatment. However, until this becomes available, this monograph will be a valuable supplement to the clinical neurophysiological literature.

**J ROTHWELL**


This book deals with Neurosurgical Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, which have become almost a speciality with the advances made over the past decades. The book is well set out with useful photographs and diagrams, the literary style is concise, and the more complicated matters are lucidly discussed.

The first part of this book is on basic physiology and pharmacology which it is essential to understand before going on to the more practical matters of anaesthesia. Parts II and III are about anaesthesia; firstly basic considerations such as induced hypotension and reduction of intracranial pressure, and then going on to deal with anaesthetic techniques. As an anaesthetist I find these two parts most informative, the anaesthetic techniques follow on easily from the basic considerations and refreshingly consider most methods used in neurological centres. The authors do not push their own techniques but give the reader a wide choice. The chapter on neurosurgery for children written by a paediatric anaesthetist, is a welcome addition as this highlights the particular problems associated with this work. Finally the last part of the book contains a chapter on anaesthesia for the head injured patient which covers very concisely the modern anaesthetic techniques. This is followed by a part on post-operative care and intensive care of neurological and head injured patients, which is a welcome addition for the anaesthetist required to work in a neurological unit.

This book was written for anaesthetists and contains most of the information with many references that the neuro-anaesthetist requires. I would recommend it very strongly to both anaesthetists in training and the established consultant; an excellent book neatly rounded off by the part on intensive care. Neurosurgeons and neurologists may also find it useful if they wish to understand the problems which their anaesthetist colleagues have to face, as the authors rightly stress in the preface that, in neurosurgery, team work is essential.

**TDW DAVIES**


Can a committee write a text book? It looks as if they can, although only those who enjoy committees should expect to read the results with pleasure. The Royal College of Psychiatrists set up a Working Party to make recommendations concern-