Book reviews

treated with high doses of ACTH or cortisone. In the field of psychiatry, changes in dexamethasone-ACTH response appear to hold an important clue as to the origin of depression. In the field of endocrinology there is a surprising complexity of ACTH release control by VIP, catecholamines, and the recently identified corticotropin-releasing factor. Although this well-written book contains no immediate answers for the mentally or physically ill, it will be read with considerable interest by all interested in the brain as a target organ for many different hormones.

JD PARKES

Handbook of Neurochemistry—2nd ed. Vol 1—Chemical and Cellular Architecture. Edited by Abel Lajtha. (Pp 496; \$65.) New York: Plenum Publishing Corporation, 1982.

The exponential growth in science since the first edition of this book was published in 1969 is readily apparent in the modern revised edition. Nearly the whole volume refers to work conducted in the last twelve years without ignoring the contributions made by early researchers in the field of neurochemistry. Because of the wide-ranging nature of the subjects covered, the authors have been obliged to be selective in approach to their allotted subjects and yet, at the same time, they have condensed a lot of useful information into the available space. The text is coherent, the English generally good and the content made for thoroughly good reading. Also, from the practical standpoint, most of the chapters provide very useful information concerning the methodology and technology behind each topic. In view of the size of the book, the term "Handbook" might seem paradoxical. However, in times when catholic interests in science have made way for specialisation, this volume is ideal for those of us who have to venture out of our own particular field occasionally on to unfamiliar ground. Certainly I would recommend this volume as a reference book to any laboratory or establishment involved with neurochemistry and I look forward to the publication of the remaining volumes of this series.

C A REAVILL

Computerized Tomography in Neuro-Ophthalmology. By IF Moseley and MD Sanders. (Pp 302; £27.50.) London: Chapman and Hall, 1982.

I should, as they say in the House of Commons, declare my interests: I meet

Michael Sanders every week at St Thomas' Hospital Medical Ophthalmology Unit, and Ian Moseley has contributed chapters to books that I have edited. Further, the publishers originally asked me whether they should go ahead and I advised them in the affirmative but said that there would not be much of a sale. I think I was wrong on the latter since anyone who orders a CT scan on an orbit will need to have this book, be he neurologist, neurosurgeon or ophthalmologist. Each would probably have to buy three copies, one for themselves, one for their department of radiology and another for the hospital library.

The introduction includes the physical principles of CT, and there are chapters on anatomy, orbital and optic nerve diseases, visual loss, eye movement disorders and the relationship of CT to other methods of investigation.

It is beautifully produced and the reproductions are excellent; I believe it to be the definitive work on this subject but I may well be prejudiced.

F CLIFFORD ROSE

The Adolescent Spine 2nd ed. by Hugo A Keim. (Pp 254; DM 82, \$8.20.) Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1982.

This book fills an important gap in the library of useful references for anyone who finds himself concerned in the treatment of children's spinal disorders.

Because severe structural changes in the adolescent spine are relatively uncommon, early diagnosis and treatment are often missed. The results of failure to take action, particularly during periods of rapid growth, can very soon make the situation irretrievable. This book underlines the unusual presentation of spinal problems in the adolescent, which may, as a result, not be appreciated fully at an early stage. The evaluation of a spinal problem is always vitally important. This is comprehensively and well covered. There is a particularly concise and valuable chapter on the problems of the cervical spine. The discussion of structural deformity, both scoliosis and kyphosis, is extensive for a book of this type. The rapid changes in treatment, both conservative and surgical make the excessive dogmatism at times unfortunate, but the book does underline some of the pitfalls which can be avoided in diagnosing deformities, particularly following destabilising operations, infections and tumours.

The book is very readable and well illustrated and should be widely read. The price

to pay for not appreciating progression both of deformity and of neurology, can be high.

TR MORLEY

Recent Advances in Clinical Psychiatry. Edited by K. Granville Grossman. Number 4. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1982. £16.00.

This latest edition of *Recent Advances*, will be as valuable to its purchasers as previous ones have been. The series, now over a decade old, has succeeded in providing reviews on a limited number of topics which give to examiners and examinees alike comprehensive information in an easily digestible format. The selection in this volume includes reviews of some important aspects of child psychiatry by Kelvin and Goodjer, of psychotherapy by Bloch and self harm by Morgan. For the sexually orientated there is hysterectomy and sterilization by Gath and Cooper, sex chromosome disorders by Pitcher and transsexualism by Hoeing. The psychopharmacologists and biological psychiatrists are given mania by Silverstone and Cookson, long-acting neuroleptics by Don Johnson and antidepressant drugs by Montgomery. The collection is completed by an excellent review of the use of computed tomography in dementia and depression by Jacoby, and for those requiring information on our most popular disease, anorexia nervosa by Palmer.

The production is good with a nice purple soft back cover; the price is quite reasonable and the contents which may, like a well known lager "reach the parts that others don't reach", are highly recommended.

MICHAEL TRIMBLE