It is believe unfortunate that the book has fallen between being a well edited overview of this very exciting field and merely another conference proceedings. It will prove useful to present the work actively in this area but only for the more general chapters cited, as much of the material is already becoming out of date. Unless there is a copy in the library it cannot be useful to the more general reader and it is difficult to see how a price of $150 in the UK can possibly be justified.

M ROSSOR


This is an interesting publication published by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Jerusalem, Israel which gives a wealth of information on the current status of neuroscience research in Israel. The authors, Dr Naomi Oren and Professor Oded Abramsky (the latter is Head of the Department of Neurology at the Hebrew University in Hadassah, Jerusalem), have compiled a volume which gives comprehensive information on current research in this field in no less than 334 pages. The format is not one of a textbook or monograph, but is arranged in a series of sections.

The subject of neuroscience is covered in the widest possible context. We are first given a survey of scientists working in the neuroscience fields in the major University and Health Centres. Brief biographies of these various individuals are given together with their main research areas of interest. The subjects span virtually the whole range of neuroscience including electrophysiology, biophysics, neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, neurophysiology, neurobiology, neurogenetics, neuroepidemiology, neuroimmunology, cellular biology, neuroscience, neurochemistry, developmental neurobiology, neuroendocrinology, and behavioural neurology. One certainly gets a feel from this book for the breadth of neuroscience interest in Israel and in the various centres. The specific scientific activities are then summarised succinctly together with the relevant researchers and I found this to be the most interesting part of the publication. I certainly gained a good deal of very useful information from these summaries and one also appreciated the high standard of academic endeavour. Finally, some general conclusions regarding, for example, the percentage of medical researchers in part-time and full-time research as well as suggestions for collaboration are given. The book ends with a long list of selected publications which I also found useful.

Over all this is an intriguing compilation of data and the authors are to be congratulated on amassing such a large amount of data covering so many fields and in presenting their results succinctly and cogently. Neurosciences in Israel is a book which should be read by all those who are interested in neuroscience in general as well as those intending to collaborate with the various excellent groups in Israel. There is a great deal of interesting information in the book quite apart from the specific relevance to Israeli neuroscience research and I was certainly very pleased to have this volume in my collection. I believe it would be a useful addition to any neurology or neuroscience library.

PETER GE KENNEDY


This book is written for graduate and undergraduate students in psychology, the behavioural and paramedical sciences. It is also intended to be suitable for psychiatric nurses, speech and psychotherapists. It presents a basic integrated appraisal of neurophysiology at an appropriate level. The information contained is presented in a series of short numbered paragraphs interspersed with many schematic diagrams. These are generally clear although some could have been improved in quality. The text is clearly written and easily comprehensible. There are occasional minor factual inaccuracies but nothing that could be seriously criticised.

Overall I thought that this was quite a nice basic text but I was left feeling rather dissatisfied at the end because of the necessarily superficial coverage of the subject. The student with an enquiring mind or with a specific question to answer would probably not find this book adequate for their needs and might prefer to put its rather high price towards a more comprehensive text.

TIMOTHY J WALLS


Advances and Technical Standards in Neurosurgery is sponsored by the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies. Since the series was started in 1974 a new volume has appeared each year. It is edited by a committee of distinguished neurosurgeons drawn from Europe, and is intended as a contribution to the postgraduate training of younger neurosurgeons. It contains a small number of comprehensive reviews of key aspects of neurosurgery especially those where relatively rapid change is taking place. Each volume is divided into two parts: 'Advances' and 'Technical Standards'. In theory the chapters in the first category are devoted to theoretical and scientific topics, whilst those in the second category involve detailed descriptions of established operative and technical procedures. In practice, this division between the two sections appears somewhat arbitrary and chapters in each section discuss both technical details and advances in the basic sciences. This volume contains a first and stimulating range of topics all relevant to the neurosurgeon who wishes to keep abreast of current developments. In the advances section are chapters on the immunobiology of brain tumours, the transplantation of adrenal medullary tissue into the brain, and the computer assisted resection of cerebral tumours. The technical standards section reviews the different surgical approaches to colloid cysts of the third ventricle, stabilisation of the spine, and the role of surgery in the management of gliomas. With the exception of the latter two sections the immunobiology and colloid cysts sections of these reviews makes especially easy reading but all are comprehensive, well edited and accompanied by extensive lists of references. The editors have done a great deal of work in eradicating the problems, previously apparent, caused by bringing out a book written by a range of authors, some of whom have only a limited fluency in writing English prose. Volume 17, of this series, can be recommended with few reservations. As is only to be expected from a German publishing house, this book is beautifully printed, bound and illustrated. Unfortunately, the high price means that few individual neurosurgeons in the United Kingdom are likely to buy it but it should be acquired by both hospital and departmental libraries.

RS MAURICE-WILLIAMS


This is a delightful, entertaining and scholarly series of short stories. They are both historical and biographical. Based on a personal and therefore to some extent idio-ynic preference, I have read most of the volumes and found them extremely interesting and enlightening. They have been written by some of the world's most distinguished neurosurgeons, all of whom have contributed to the development of neurosurgery in some way or another. It is a book which I am sure would be of interest to all who are interested in the history and development of neurosurgery.

This year the yearbook contains a number of articles on the history of neurosurgery, including a review of the work of Symonds, the pioneer of neurosurgery in the United Kingdom. There are also many articles on the history of neurosurgery in other countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and India.

The book is divided into four parts: Part 1 is a review of the history of neurosurgery, Part 2 is a review of the history of neurosurgery in the United States, Part 3 is a review of the history of neurosurgery in Canada, and Part 4 is a review of the history of neurosurgery in India.

This is a book which I would recommend to anyone who is interested in the history of neurosurgery. It is well written and well researched, and it contains a wealth of information which will be of interest to all who are interested in the history of medicine.