

the summarisation and organisation of material." The details which the author considers least essential have been presented in smaller print. Some figures have been eliminated while others have been enlarged. The presentation of the subject is essentially on a regional basis, the book having been divided into the following nine sections: general concepts in anatomy, upper limb, head and neck, back, chest, abdomen, perineum, pelvis, and lower limb. Nevertheless, the author has endeavoured, where possible, to relate the regional descriptions with a systemic approach. The format of the book is pleasant and the illustrations are well placed in relation to the text. There are 457 illustrations and a number of coloured plates. The author suggests that the monochrome illustrations could be coloured by the student as part of his learning process.

Any student who reads and learns what have been considered by the author as essentials of anatomy will have a sound background on which to build his later studies in medicine. The book can be recommended without reservation.

W. J. HAMILTON.

Fibre Spectra of Peripheral Nerves

Composition of Peripheral Nerves. By Ian A. Boyd, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E., and Mary R. Davey, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Pp. 57+viii; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1968.

This book is a quantitative and qualitative study of the fibre spectra of selected cut motor and sensory nerves. To this end the authors have employed a most thorough and painstaking correlation of electrophysiology and light microscopy. Individual peaks in the fibre spectra so obtained are assigned to physiological categories of nerve fibre in a semiquantitative manner, the data being displayed in a clear and uncomplicated fashion.

While the authors have succeeded in their qualitative intentions, a reservation must be

applied to those quantitative calculations which have as a parameter the value which the authors derive for the axonal and total fibre diameter. There is considerable shrinkage and distortion of the nerve fibres during preparation for histological examination and this, taken in conjunction with the thickness of their histological sections and the relative imprecision of the technique used to estimate the nerve diameter, must render the value of their calculations suspect. This will inevitably weaken the distinction which they make between the thinly and thickly myelinated components of the gamma fibre groups, and may have obscured some of the finer details in their spectra. Nevertheless, accepting this limitation, the book provides a most valuable collection of information about the composition of individual peripheral nerves.

A. G. M. WEDDELL.

U.S. Army Medical Department in the Second World War

Internal Medicine in World War II. Infectious Diseases and General Medicine. Vol. 3. Edited by Robert S. Anderson, M.C., U.S.A. (Pp. 778+xxxi; illustrated. \$8.25.) Washington, D.C.: Department of the Army. 1969.

We expect Americans to do things in a big way, and the medical department of their Army does not fail us in the official record of its activities during the second world war. This is the 34th volume to be published since the historical unit was established in 1952. Thirteen volumes have been devoted to surgery, six to preventive medicine, and seven to miscellaneous subjects such as wound ballistics and cold injury (ground type), but the physicians have only three and this one is their final contribution.

It is beautifully produced and illustrated, and it runs to well over 700 pages. The impressive list of authors numbers 24, and nearly all of them are now professors in universities, and without exception they were

on active service. Despite the fact that "most of its information has long since appeared in our medical journals," as Dr. Paul Havens candidly admits in his preface, I found it easy to read and in places positively exciting, either because the subject matter was so strange or because it revived memories of similar problems in the first world war.

No doubt if I had studied the literature diligently enough I would have known something about coccidioidomycosis with erythema nodosum and pulmonary lesions in the San Joaquin Valley, but the blunt truth is that I didn't, though the disease presented a serious problem in the desert training area of Southern California and led to friction between the medical department and "fire-eating trainers." It is a fascinating story, and as I read it I thought of Keats when he first opened Chapman's *Homer*. Sadly, too, I admit my ignorance of Bullis fever, first recognized in Texas in 1942, and accepted as a clinical entity, though the causal agent has not been identified. The disease, however, can be readily reproduced in volunteers by inoculation of blood from febrile cases and of emulsion of ticks allowed to feed on the patients even after repeated propagation in developing chick embryos. The short chapter about it reminded me of the puzzle of trench fever encountered in France during the first world war. In the section on psychosomatic medicine I came across the startling statement that in 1941 50% of American recruits were rejected (a total of 900,000 men) for physical and mental defects, and the author confesses that he could find no adequate explanation for the rejection of a husky alert man capable of strenuous activity because he had lost some molar teeth, while a sickly and timid youth was accepted. The adoption of the "PULHEMS" system (Physical capacity; Upper limbs; Lower limbs; Hearing acuity; Eyesight; Mental capacity; Stability) led to more realistic assessment by recruiting boards.

The real value of this series of historical publications is the provision of an authoritative source of reference in the unhappy event of another world war.

A. P. THOMSON.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Progressive Exercise Therapy: In Rehabilitation and Physical Education. 2nd edition. By J. H. C. Colson, F.C.S.P. (Pp. 207+x; illustrated. 30s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1969.

Vascular Insufficiency: Mechanism and Management. Edited by J. R. Kelsey, jun., M.D., and E. F. Beard, M.D. (Pp. 242+xiv; illustrated. \$10.75.) Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

Metabolic Effects of Gonadal Hormones and Contraceptive Steroids. Edited by H. A. Salhanick, M.D., Ph.D., D. M. Kipnis, M.D., and R. L. Vande Wiele, M.D. (Pp. 762+xxix; illustrated. \$27.50.) New York and London: Plenum Press. 1969.

Proceedings of the 7th International Congress of Psychotherapy. Held at Wiesbaden, August 1967. Parts 1-6. Edited by W. Th. Winkler and Th. Spoerri. (Pp. 652. 196s.) Basle: S. Karger. U.K.: Academic Press. 1969.

The Mycoplasmatales and the L-Phase of Bacteria. Edited by Leonard Hayflick. (Pp. 731+xix; illustrated. 280s.) Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing. 1969.

The Child's Conception of Time. By Jean Piaget. (Pp. 285+xi. 45s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1969.

Metabolism and Membrane Permeability of Erythrocytes. Edited by Erwin Deutsch, Eckehart Gerlach, and Kurt Moser. (Pp. 479+xvi; illustrated. DM. 110.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1968.

Voyage through Childhood into the Adult World. By Eva A. Frommer, M.B., D.C.H., D.P.M. (Pp. 114+xvii; illustrated. Hard cover 35s., flexi cover 25s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1969.

Monographs in Clinical Cytology. Vol. 3. Diagnostic Cytology of the Uterine Cervix. By Stanley F. Patten, jun. (Pp. 209+vi; illustrated. 110s.) Basle: S. Karger. U.K.: Academic Press. 1969.

Spasticity: Mechanism, Measurement, and Management. By Ejner Pedersen, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 130+xii; illustrated. \$7.75.) Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

Innovations in Social Psychiatry: A Social Psychological Perspective Through Dialogue. By Joshua Bierer, M.D., and R. I. Evans, Ph.D. (Pp. 211. Hard cover 45s., paperback 25s.) London: Avenue Publishing. 1969.

Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates. Edited by Marc Krauss. (Pp. 704; illustrated. \$32.50.) New York: Academy of Sciences. 1969.

The Psychiatric Examination. By Ian Stevenson, M.D. (Pp. 234+x. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1969.

Radioisotopes in the Diagnosis of Diseases of the Kidneys and the Urinary Tract. Proceedings of the 1st International Symposium held at Liège, June 1967. Edited by L. Timmermans and G. Merchie. (Pp. 659+xxviii; illustrated. 301s.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1969.