physiology is still qualitative rather than quantitative. However, the emphasis throughout the whole monograph is on quantitative aspects of cardiovascular physiology. Readers lacking advanced mathematical training might feel frustrated at not following the precise derivation of numerous equations.

In writing this monograph, Professor Kelman has made an attempt to simplify a fairly difficult and wide subject. The first chapter is an excellent summary of physical principles underlining cardiovascular measurements. This is followed by an authoritative account of classical cardiovascular physiology. The text is illustrated with excellent line drawings. Special mention should be made of a chapter on circulation and general anaesthesia which considers the pharmacological actions of anaesthetic agents and effects of surgery on the cardiovascular system. This will fascinate and stimulate anaesthetists. The subject of haemorrhage and shock and of chronic heart failure is briefly covered. It is to be hoped that these chapters will receive more attention in future editions of this monograph. A final chapter on cardiovascular measurements is included to explain the principles underlying numerous techniques available to quantitate physiological indices. The monograph has a useful and up to date bibliography.

This is not a reference book, but a resumé of a vast literature available on cardiovascular physiology and a guide to current trends in cardiovascular physiological research. In this sense the monograph is well written and should inspire many readers to take a fuller interest in the cardiovascular status of the patients under their care during and after surgical treatment.

Contraception Today

Edited by A. J. SMITH. Pp. 189, illustrated. London: Family Planning Association, 1971. £1.00.

This book is a collection of papers presented at various conferences organised by the FPA during 1970. The papers cover a large part of the current knowledge concerning contraception.

There is always a difficulty presented in this type of material. It is up-to-date in one sense, but there are inevitable overlaps and the papers, prepared for a general audience, are not necessarily concerning a particular piece of research, but of a review of current knowledge. I think the book does offer, however, to medical personnel working in FPA clinics, general or hospital practice, an easily readable reference book of material which is not easy to find elsewhere.

Intracranial Tumors of Infants and Children

By WOLFGANG TH. KOOS and MEREDITH H. MILLER. Pp. 415, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1971. £15.00.

This beautifully produced monograph describes the clinical features, diagnosis, treatment and to a lesser extent pathology, of intracranial tumors in children, based largely on an analysis of 700 cases. The book itself is a pleasure to handle and is lavishly illustrated with photographs, diagrams and photomicrographs, the latter unfortunately all in black and white. The format has been carefully organized so that with the detailed table of contents, the index, although adequate, is largely superfluous. As expected in such a book, a large number of references are included.

The material itself is generally excellently presented, though certain chapters seem unnecessarily short. For example the section on chemotherapy is extremely brief, though of course this may reflect the authors' views on a controversial subject. In general I have few criticisms of the contents. The description of the respiratory disturbances associated with raised intracranial pressure is, however, not in accord with current concepts and the list of endocrine investigations (Table 21) makes no mention of the usefulness of either the Dashe test or of the estimation of serum cortisol.

This book is to be recommended and any paediatrician, neurologist or neurosurgeon, but not I fear pathologist, could read it with benefit. Few, however, will be inclined to buy it at the prohibitive price of £15.