

book is new are unlikely to find a better guide to and instructor in the pathology of tumours of the nervous system.

#### Peripheral Entrapment Neuropathies

By HARVEY P. KOPELL AND WALTER A. L. THOMPSON. Pp. vii+187, illustrated, hard cover. Robert E. Krieger Publishing Co., New York, 1976. \$13.50.

This interesting book, written by enthusiasts with great experience of the subject, is easy to read and well worth reading. In it, the authors imply that pain virtually anywhere can be caused by entrapment of some nerve somewhere along its course. Physicians and surgeons in different disciplines will learn from it of the existence of a number of otherwise unexplained painful syndromes which may affect any part of the body. The main practical problem which this gives rise to is that apparently quite often it will not result in the appearance of the expected neurological deficit. It seems therefore that only enthusiasts brave enough to explore the appropriate nerve at the expected site of entrapment will be able to reach the correct diagnosis by effecting a cure.

The rather unique experience of the authors can be gathered from the statement (p. 48) that the 'restless legs' phenomenon is probably due to 'a low grade neuropathy of the peroneal nerve' and from the description of a patient with myasthenia gravis (p. 179) whose illness caused back pain due apparently to unstable small muscle system and spasm of the larger muscle masses, was cured by the administration of prostigmine where six major spinal operations carried out previously had failed!

#### Practice — A Handbook of Primary Medical Care

Instalment IV. Edited by J. CORMACK, M. MARINKER AND D. MORRELL. Kluwer-Harrap Handbooks, London, 1977. £6.50 per instalment plus special binder at £1.60 and postage. (Updating service planned to cost about £6.00 p.a.)

Previous reviews have indicated the nature and pattern of this loose-leaf General Practice Manual. In the penultimate instalment there are twelve further chapters from the main part of the book, devoted to diseases and symptoms. In addition, we received the first two chapters from Part 4. Marshall Marinker's introductory chapter to this part is on the nature of continuing care. It is a well reasoned essay about the role of the general practitioner, his place as a family doctor, his virtues and his limitations. As with the introductory chapter to the first part, this chapter is worth reading on its own account. The other chapter in Part 4 provided with this instalment is on adolescence. It, too, in its own way, is equally interesting.

The series as a whole is proving very popular both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

#### Principles for First Aid for the Injured

By H. PROCTOR AND P. S. LONDON. Pp. xiv+284, illustrated, hard cover. Butterworths, London, 1977. £6.25.

This third edition of a well established book on First Aid has been enlarged to encompass the recent trends in emergency care for the injured. The book has retained its basic format and deals with the principles of infection, haemorrhage, fractures and burns, as well as presenting a detailed systematic survey of injuries to different parts of the body. The book is designed for the 'First Aider' but with the rapidly changing organization of emergency work, both civil and military, the task of initiating primary treatment may fall upon doctors, nurses, ambulance men, highly trained 'paramedics' or various other organized groups. This book is clearly written, well illustrated and has concise summaries of emergency treatment after each chapter. It will appeal to all those engaged in accident work including, no doubt, medical

students. Doctors working in the field may be surprised at the detailed knowledge now required by their non-medical colleagues and may well wish to use this excellent book as a guide-line for their lectures on First Aid.

#### Prolactin and Human Reproduction

By P. G. CROSIGNANI AND C. ROBYN. Pp. vii+305, illustrated, hard cover. Academic Press, 1977. £10.50, \$20.50.

This book contains a collection of papers presented at the eleventh International Symposium of the Sero Foundation held at Cernobbio in July 1976. The result is a comprehensive compendium concerning the many roles of prolactin in human reproduction. Unfortunately, little information is presented concerning the considerable difficulties associated with the measurement of this hormone by radioimmunoassay and no mention of possible alternative techniques. Accordingly, there is no explanation for those situations where apparently conflicting findings have been reported, e.g. the concentration of prolactin in peripheral plasma during the ovarian cycle. Notwithstanding this limitation, however, there is much convincing information on the plasma levels of the hormone throughout life and upon the origins and role of the compound in amniotic fluid. In addition, there are interesting results from studies on factors that affect the secretion of prolactin under physiological and pathological conditions. Finally, there is a section upon the characterization and management of patients with hyperprolactinaemia associated with abnormal gonadal function. The book contains many new findings and should be of particular value to practising endocrinologists or gynaecologists.

#### Recent Advances in Surgery

Edited by SELWYN TAYLOR. Pp. vii+450, illustrated, hard cover. Longman Group, Harlow, 1977. £11.00.

The appearance of a new *Recent Advances in Surgery* is always greeted with a sigh of relief by surgeons, such as the present reviewer, who have to struggle to keep abreast with new techniques and advances in their own field together with progress in subjects adjacent to their speciality. In this ninth edition, Mr Selwyn Taylor, as Editor, has not failed us. With an expert touch, he has chosen subjects of the very greatest interest and he has matched this wide choice by selecting a team of a couple of dozen expert surgical teachers, pathologists and physicians as his contributors. The chapters include fundamental topics of haemostasis, immunology and parenteral nutrition as applied to surgical problems; then there is a group of 'bread and butter' items of great importance to the general surgeon, which include cancer of the rectum, acute pancreatitis and portal hypertension, and then a group of specialist items chosen for their particular current importance and which include microsurgery, coronary artery bypass, the surgery of obesity and, bring us right into the North Sea oil exploration era, the use of hyperbaric oxygen chambers in surgery. The Editor himself contributes the final chapter which sums up the present situation regarding the training of surgeons in the United Kingdom.

This is an important and welcomed volume. The chapters are interesting, well written, up to date and will each serve as a useful monograph on some of the most exciting points of progress in surgery to-day.

#### Side Effects of Drugs Annual 1

By M. N. G. DUKES. Pp. vii+420, hard cover. Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam, 1977. US \$38.50, Dfl. 100.00.

The standard source for the literature on the side effects of drugs is Meyler's *Side Effects of Drugs*, which has reached volume VIII in covering publications up to 1975. Whereas