of over a thousand cases of brain wounds in patients treated in the Military Hospital for Head Injuries, Oxford, and followed up by a head injury advice bureau. The site of the wound was mapped as accurately as possible, and this made possible conclusions as to the anatomical extent of the speech territory. Similarly it provided useful information as to the part played by the right and left cerebral hemispheres in the neural organization of speech in right- and left-handed persons. The authors' material in their view provided no support for the view that left-handers use both hemispheres for speech more often than right-handers. Nor was there any evidence that left-handers with aphasia recover more quickly than right-handers rendered aphasic by comparable injuries. An original feature of the work is an attempt to clarify the relationship between aphasia and injury to the motor, sensory, and visual pathways.

There is much to be said for the relatively simple classification of the aphasias which the authors have adopted. They start from a basic 'central aphasia' in which all aspects of language function tend to be disordered, though in varying degrees of severity, and beyond that they recognize motor aphasia, agraphia and alexia. The nature of these disorders is illustrated from patients suffering from brain wounds.

In the past there has been an unfortunate tendency to regard concepts such as thought, speech, and memory as though they were independent psychophysiological entities. It is useful, therefore—and again an original feature of this book—to have attention drawn to the correlation in some instances of aphasia and memory disturbances, particularly in relation to damage to the temporal lobe. Agreement about aphasia is not to be expected at present, but whatever one's views one can hardly fail to find this book a stimulating one.

The Electroencephalogram of the Normal Child by Alberto Fois MD
translated and edited by Niels L Low MD FAAP
pp xi + 124 illustrated 54s
Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas
Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications 1961
Material on the EEG in normal children is scarce and this little atlas provides it in convenient form. As F A Gibbs states in the preface 'reduction of electroencephalograms to two thirds their original size does not result in a loss of significant detail'.

One hundred and one photographs are provided of monopolar recordings from normal children, waking and sleeping, aged 1 month to 14 years. The examples are clear and well chosen although the suggestion that 'one of the advantages of monopolar recordings is that it makes the interpretation of sleep records easier' should be resisted. In fact a fairly consistent relative flattening in the right temporal region in serial records arouses the comment 'the temporal asymmetry is normal with reference electrodes on the ears'.

The translation and editing leave a lot to be desired and it is doubtful whether all the statements about frequency and location can be justified if the data have been obtained from the limited techniques described. It is certainly not true that non-seizure discharges can be differentiated from seizure discharges because the former 'disappear in sleep, while true seizure discharges would become more apparent in that state'. However, what really matters is that the examples provide a useful chronicle of the development of the EEG in the normal child.

One interesting snippet of information is that EEG artifacts are more common in infants 'when the diapers are wet'. The explanation for this interesting observation is presumably being saved for the next edition.

An Introduction to Anaesthetics
by John D Laycock MB BS(Lond) FFA RCS
pp v + 132 10s
Dr Laycock is to be congratulated on writing this book for medical students and house officers. The chapters on the nature of anaesthesia, general anaesthetic agents and muscle relaxants form a good introduction. The importance of the airway and the assessment and preparation of the patient get due attention whilst the problem of steroid therapy has a place. The chapter on complications is particularly good and should do much to allay the worries of neophytes to anaesthesia. It is to be hoped that Dr Laycock will be able to include details of external cardiac massage in future editions. There is a judicious reminder that local anaesthetics have a maximum dose.

Throughout, care is enjoined and basic principles emphasized. This book is to be heartily recommended and its price brings it within the reach of all. Many a senior anaesthetist will wish that it had been available when he started anaesthetics.

Handbook of Physiology
Section 1: Neurophysiology (Vol. III)
editor-in-chief: John Field
pp v + 525 (pp 1441–1966) illustrated £8
Washington, D.C.: American Physiological Society
London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cox 1960
This third volume of the handbook completes the description of neurophysiology. The first two volumes dealt with peripheral nervous processes and the main branches of the physiological study of the central nervous system. This volume, containing twenty-three articles by twenty-seven authors, devotes about two-thirds of its 500 pages