Clinical Electroencephalography in Epilepsy and Related Conditions in Children. By ALBERTO FOIS. (Pp. xx + 292; 223 figures + 2 tables. $10.75) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This book of just over 300 pages (the last four of the copy reviewed were entirely blank, but probably meant to be so) has been written 'not only for the electroencephalographer but also for the neurologist, the paediatrician, and the general practitioner'. It is somewhat difficult, looking through the index to find the first three chapters, as the pages are not numbered. Anybody who is anxious to read about the 'Practical Value of the EEG' in chapter 1 is referred to a dozen other publications, and remains puzzled. The chapter on technique (less than a page) refers also to a dozen published papers between 1950 and 1961, including a previous volume of the author's. In the chapter on infantile epilepsy some useful criteria are listed in relation to the occurrence of 'occasional convulsions' in contrast with what the author calls epilepsy ('a chronic cerebral disease'). It is difficult, however, to understand the statement that 'simple febrile seizures . . . must not be considered true epileptic convulsions'. It is puzzling why the author should consider prematurity, post-maturity and alcholism of the parents . . . important as aetiological factors of epilepsy.

Apart from the above and a few other statements that are somewhat difficult to believe in 1963, the book is nicely presented, of a very reasonable size, and about five-sixths of it consists of illustrations of selected electroencephalograms in the form of an atlas (223 pages). The book is completed by some 20 pages of bibliography with some quotations from 1960, 1961 and 1962.

The quality of the electroencephalograms is difficult to evaluate because the technique employed is not one commonly used in this country.

Reflex Testing Methods for Evaluating C.N.S. Development. By MARY R. FIORENTINO. (Pp. xiv + 58; illustrated. $5.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This book is written by the director of occupational therapy in the Newington Hospital for crippled children. It is a monograph in the American lectures in orthopaedic surgery. It is essentially a series of photographs of a variety of primitive reflexes, with their mode of elicitation. The reflexes include the flexor withdrawal, extensor thrust, crossed extension, asymmetrical and symmetrical tonic neck reflexes, labyrinthine reflexes, positive and negative supporting reactions, and the Moro and Landau reflexes. Each reflex is described under the headings Test Position, Test Stimulus, Negative Reaction, and Positive Reaction. In each case the author states the age period at which the reflex is normally found, and then states that after this age persistence of the reflex may indicate delay in maturation. There is no attempt apart from this to discuss the significance of the findings. There is no note of the symmetry of such reflexes as the Moro, and of the significance of asymmetry. The opening of the hand and other features of the quality of the Moro reflex are not mentioned.

The illustrations are very good and they clearly show the mode of elicitation of the reflexes. It is based mainly on the work of the Bobaths, and 14 of the 30 references refer to their papers. The fact that all the photographs show the same boy and are therefore posed does not detract from their informative value.

An Introduction to Medical Genetics. 3rd ed. By J. A. FRASER ROBERTS. (Pp. xiii + 283; 121 figures. 35s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1963.

Having studied this 3rd edition of a deservedly popular book one feels well prepared for further and more expert studies in medical genetics. The author makes it clear that this is not a textbook of medical genetics containing comprehensive details of human inherited abnormalities; rather is it a 'physiology' devoted to the principles underlying human inheritance. It is easily read, the diagrams are clear and standardized, the photographs few but well chosen. The author is considerate enough to indicate when certain sections may be omitted without loss of the main thread of thought, and also keeps mathematical concepts to a minimum. A new chapter clearly describes the most important chromosomal abnormalities and the manner in which they arise. The principles of genetic counselling are dealt with in a straightforward and helpful way. The new section on biochemical genetics is brief but informative, but contains one error in line 24 of page 181, where tyrosine is given instead of tyrosinase.

A separate section recommends additional reading on general and specific lines. The references are grouped at the end under the headings of the consecutive sections in which they occur, and an index of definitions of terminology is also given.

Anyone embarking on a career in paediatrics or medicine would be well advised to study this book and to keep it for periodic perusal.

The printing and binding are of a high standard and the price is reasonable.

Muscular Dystrophy in Man and Animals. Edited by GEOFFREY H. BOURNE and MA. NELLY GOLARZ. (Pp. xvi + 524; 355 figures + 14 tables. S.Fr./DM. 112.50.) Basel and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

It is only comparatively recently that genetically determined muscular dystrophy has been separated from the heterogeneous collection of diseases known as myopathies. The production of a strain of mice at Bar Harbor, Maine, that have an inherited muscular dystrophy similar in some ways to the human disease, has provided an experimental tool with which to study the disease in greater detail than is possible from human biopsy material. In this book are collected contributions from clinicians, pathologists, biochemists, histochemists, geneticists, physiologists and electron microscopists, who have studied human and mouse muscular dystrophy and also another inherited muscular disease that occurs in chickens. J. H. Walton has written a very clear account of the clinical types and C. M. Pearson discusses the