

## *Book Reviews*

**Sciatic and pelvic pain due to lumbosacral nerve root compression.** LENNART HERLIN, M.D. Springfield, Illinois. Charles C. Thomas. 1966. Pp. x + 253. Price \$16.50.

This is a work of the quality we have come to expect of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and is beautifully printed and illustrated. The first part is a clear and precise description of the anatomical features of lumbar disc lesions and how nerve root involvement occurs. The diagrams are excellent and the text limited to 31 pages containing a wide reference to the literature. This section should be read in detail by general practitioners wishing to achieve a full understanding of the signs presented in patients with disc syndromes. The second section of 162 pages contains 106 case reports in chronological order each illustrated by large clear diagrams showing the operative findings. These merit detailed consideration by the surgeon but only a general review by the general practitioner. Part three in tabular form (41 pages) groups syndromes together. It is interesting that 39 of the 106 cases had pelvic symptoms associated with spinal and leg phenomena.

Much can be learnt from the study of disc lesions requiring surgery but these represent only a small proportion of the total and the majority respond to conservative treatment which is not mentioned in this book. Moreover, it represents the purely neurosurgical approach and does not deal with the problems of instability of intervertebral joints. Removal of the lateral articulation is often done and the author admits that he has no experience of the merits or otherwise of spinal fusion combined with disc surgery. Nevertheless, this is a most valuable contribution and will be read throughout by surgeons and students of surgery. For general practitioners to attempt the whole would be unprofitable, but all should read the first section and select a few of the illustrated case reports in section two for detailed study.

**Proceedings of a symposium on spina bifida—11th June, 1965. Proceedings of a symposium on scoliosis—5th and 6th July, 1965.** Edited by P. A. ZORAB. Convened by the National Fund for Research into Poliomyelitis and other crippling diseases.

The National Fund for Research into Poliomyelitis and other crippling diseases is to be congratulated for sponsoring such symposia. On each occasion the attendance was a small number of undoubted experts in the subject who were brought together to discuss their methods of treatment or the research projects they were undertaking. The restriction of the