only admission to hospital and expert clinical observation may be able to differentiate the two types. Electroencephalography during and between attacks can be of the greatest value. In support of his main thesis Dr. Rabe adduces the case history of 41 patients with combined hysterical and epileptic seizures which will surely convince the sceptic.

The author cites Kraepelin's belief that the two types of seizures may be measures taken by the organism to protect its homeostasis, but Dr. Rabe admits that the combination still escapes our understanding; he points out that in these patients there is a fundamental disturbance between the ego and the surrounding which bridges the apparently trenchant division between the two types of attacks.

J. SCHORSTEIN

ANAESTHESIA FOR NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY By P. B. McComish and P. O. Bodley (Pp. 412; illustrated; £5.50.) Lloyd-Luke: London. 1971.

This eminently readable book presents modern practice in neuroanaesthesia in the short compass of under 400 pages. The authors are to be congratulated on producing a volume of value and interest, not only to the anaesthetist but to his colleagues in surgery and neurology. By including historical notes and pathology, in the author's words, 'a background of knowledge is created so that the anaesthetist may better comprehend, and enjoy, neuroanaesthesia.' The book is divided into four sections: historical, fundamental concepts of the intracranial milieu, basic techniques in neuroanaesthesia, and methods of anaesthesia for neurosurgical procedures. The references at the end of each chapter are particularly extensive and further reading is also given. It will be of value as a textbook for reference purposes and as a manual of instruction for more than the trainee-anaesthetist as modestly suggested by the authors. With increasing trauma and the difficulty in staffing accident and emergency units, the chapter on head injuries and the associated resuscitation, as first-aid and in hospitals, can be recommended, particularly so, when junior staff may be required to deal with such demanding situations.

The illustrations and charts are clear and the book produced and printed so as to make it a pleasure to handle.

A. H. GRANAT

HANDBOOK OF LEPROSY By W. H. Jopling. (Pp. iv + 91; illustrated; £1.15.) Heinemann: London. 1971.

This small paper-back book is highly recommended. Written as a short handbook for para-medical workers, it contains sufficient concise but reliable information to suit the needs of all who have occasional need to know the essentials of leprosy, such as neurologists working in a sea-port or in areas of high immigration. It does not contain sufficient data for the neuropathologist, who will be surprised at the function attributed to Schwann cells, and it makes no mention of the diagnostic value of nerve conduction studies, but for the intended readership it is excellent.

J. A. SIMPSON

NEUROPSYCHOLOGIE: Aktuelle Probleme (NEUROPSYCHOLOGY: Pressing Problems) Edited by Manfred Haider. (Pp. 151; illustrated; DM. 22.) Hans Huber: Stuttgart. 1971.

Neuropsychology is a bastard word which describes an itch, but as yet we do not know where and how to scratch. Where is the seat of humour, where in the brain does a man compose a poem, what in electrical, biochemical, or histological terms makes this one unhappy the other romantic and yet another apathetic? Where and above all (as St. Paul would have it) is charity? Once found and measured it would be only a short step to regulate, to change and to bring it into conformity. There at last lies 'the rub'. Happily the day seems as far distant today as it did when Descartes firmly placed the human soul into the pineal gland.

The aim of this brief book is to introduce and to summarize the correlation of electrical events in the central nervous system with psychical happenings. The harvest is still but a poor one, although the number of harvesters grows each year, and the number of publications is growing apace.

In the booklet Creutzfeldt tries to find an explanation for the origin of spontaneous alterations in the EEG; how evoked and how the slower cerebral potentials come about. Grünwald discusses the basic neuropsychological investigations and their various problems.

Other papers deal briefly with the findings which may accompany stereotactic brain operations and the effects of stimulating various brain structures on brain-electrical phenomena as well as on experience and conduct. Clinical benefits are foreseen.

Finally methodological problems are presented and their possible future clinical importance is foreshadowed.

The six essays are well presented and well edited. Many psychologists and neurophysiologists will find them valuable.

J. SCHORSTEIN

BIOCHEMISTRY, SCHIZOPHRENIA AND AFFECTIVE ILLNESSES Edited by Harold E. Himwich. (Pp. xiv + 500; illustrated.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1970.

Over the past 20 years the arrival of a host of new psychotropic drugs has stimulated both treatment and research undertaken by psychiatrists. In the sphere of therapeutics the results can already be seen in the greatly improved symptomatic management of many psychiatric illnesses. Perhaps inevitably, these largely empirical successes have re-awakened interest in the possibilities of identifying a chemical basis for mental disorders, especially the functional psychoses. Here, however, problems of method and technique have so far frustrated most of the high hopes raised by the speculations and theories of the biochemists and pharmacologists. This book brings together a number of the more promising leads in 15 chapters which range widely to cover such diverse topics as catecholamine metabolism, electrolyte disturbances, steroid metabolism, indoleamines, biological rhythms, and carbohydrate metabolism. Together they constitute a useful overview of a large and growing body of investigations, justifying the claim advanced by Seymour Kety