the title. It consists of five lectures and verbatim discussion. The subject of antenatal diagnosis is a rapidly growing one, not only with the continued emergence of new techniques for intrauterine investigation but also because of the accelerating proliferation of differentiated genetic disorders, chromosomal and metabolic variants in particular. Thus, while many of the cautionary warnings remain very true (the tragedy of an erroneous antenatal diagnosis is no small one) and are sufficient reason for careful reading of L. J. Butler's lecture, it is unfortunate that publication delay makes much of what was then new material now somewhat dated. The papers on infant developmental assessment are more concerned with prediction of less obvious, but not less important, deviations from the norm; they point to difficulties in evaluation which remain far from solution. Sandwiched between the title topics is a short lecture on fetal audiometry by R. J. Bench. Seemingly a little out-of-place here, it opens intriguing windows on fetal neurophysiology. But whether these highlights justify the publication of symposia of this kind is another question.

J. B. P. STEPHENSON

THE BRAIN IN UNCLASSIFIED MENTAL RETARDATION
By J. B. Cavanagh. (Pp. 333; illustrated; £5.)
Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1972.

This is a study group report, comprising 18 lectures together with formal and informal discussions. Unlike so many symposia the sections are well integrated, the whole well-edited and the subject matter of more than ephemeral interest. Hopefully, it may kindle the enthusiasm of emergent neuroscientists for study of the developing rather than the mature nervous system, with prospect of prevention rather than treatment of neurological disorder. Any doubt that 'mental retardation' should be regarded as a neurological problem must be removed after study of Professor Jellinger's paper on neuropathological findings in over 1,000 patients in whom retardation was first manifest before 3 years of age. Over 90% of these brains showed evidence of organic damage or dysgenesis. Jellinger's analysis suggests aetiological mechanisms in certain groups (vascular accidents *in utero* for example) but he admits that classical neuropathology should not be expected to solve this type of problem. Elsewhere in the book the same problem is approached from other angles. Topics discussed include vascularization of the developing brain; neuronal numbers (birth, migration, differentiations, and death), nutritional, hormonal, and enzymatic aspects of brain development; teratological sensitivity and timing, including prenatal viral infection, chemical insults, and a consideration of

the perinatal factors affecting development of low birth weight infants. Other papers on epidemiology, growth, psychological and psychiatric aspects, EEG, biochemistry and other neuropathological aspects add to the picture but are not always so stimulating as the more fundamental presentations. But the book as a whole deserves to be owned and read by anyone with an interest in developmental neurobiology.

J. B. P. STEPHENSON

YEAR BOOK OF PSYCHIATRY AND APPLIED MENTAL HEALTH Edited by F. J. Braceland, D. X. Freedman, A. J. Friedhoff, L. C. Kolb, R. S. Lourie, and J. Romano. (Pp. 437; £6.75.) Lloyd-Luke: London. 1973.

In his introduction the chief aim of the editors of this book is to make their readers aware of what they regard as the danger of pressure groups within psychiatry and elsewhere, which seek to place much of the responsibility for mental illness upon deficits in society. Apart from playing down the contribution of organic factors, this view has a much more serious aspect—namely, its effects upon attitudes towards treatment. In particular, the practice of discharging increasing numbers of chronically sick individuals into communities ill-prepared to receive them is condemned. In order to reinforce their opinion that there is 'ferment in clinical practice and research' the editors have collected, through a series of subeditors, abstracts of papers from the whole spectrum of psychiatric literature. Unfortunately, these contributions are not always linked with the main theme through an introductory section, and at times it is difficult to understand why certain papers have been selected.

As a reference work this book is of limited value, and it is likely to be of interest only to those responsible for university and departmental libraries.

MICHAEL R. BOND

NOTICE

Administration in Mental Health. This new Journal from the National Institute of Mental Health, U.S.A., may be obtained free of charge from the editor, Saul Feldman, D.P.A., NIMH, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852, U.S.A., to whom also manuscripts should be submitted.