aims and it is well produced and clearly illustrated. There is considerable variation in the approach adopted by the different contributors; thus some chapters provide a comprehensive high level review of an extensive field whereas in others the authors select a particular line of work to review in depth. This is a difficult book for the clinical reader who may nevertheless find it useful to refer to particular sections. Advanced workers in the neurosciences should find it valuable.

J. A. R. LENMAN

VIRAL DISEASES OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Edited by L. S. Illis. (Pp. 226; illustrated; £7.50.)

Baillière Tindall: London. 1975.

This very readable short book summarises the present knowledge about the virus diseases and the putative virus diseases of the nervous system. It is particularly valuable in that no special knowledge of virology is assumed, and the terminology of the subject is precisely defined. In the section on the acute and subacute encephalitides the subject matter is largely non-controversial and the chapters are straightforward and always informative. The second half of the book is devoted to the possible role of viruses in some 'degenerative' diseases of the nervous system. This is the subject of much controversy; experimental results often being quite contradictory. Some of this material is possibly partisan but nevertheless it gives a useful introduction to this exciting and increasingly important aspect of neurology. The description of the investigative and experimental techniques will help the non-expert to appreciate the significance of the current concepts and the subsequent developments in this field.

IVAN T. DRAPER

BRAIN, BEHAVIOUR AND DRUGS By David M.

Warburton. (Pp. 280; illustrated; £6.95.) Wiley: Chichester. 1975.

This book is a textbook for graduate and advanced undergraduate students in psychology, pharmacology, and allied medical fields. The author has attempted to explain behaviour in terms of the basic neurochemical systems of the brain. Clinical neurologists will find his thesis of great interest, although at times the technical language is hard to follow and makes reading difficult. The sections on synaptic transmission, spinal and peripheral motor control, the biochemical basis of learning and memory, and the development of intelligence are of great interest to the reviewer, a neurologist. Considerable emphasis is naturally given to animal experimental work and as usual one wonders if it is justifiable to apply these results to explain behaviour in man.

The book is a refreshing change from the usual neurological literature emphasising neurochemical ideas rather than neurophysiological concepts. It seems reasonable to assume that it will become required reading for neuropharmacologists and psychologists.

H. V. MILLAR

BIOFEEDBACK: BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE By Lee Birk.

(Pp. 209; illustrated; £5.20.) Grune and Stratton: New York. 1973.

This book consists of a series of chapters, often complicated and technical, by experts on various aspects of biofeedback, mainly its clinical applications. The editor, clearly aware of the general interest in the topic, furnishes introductory remarks before each contribution to highlight particular points of importance. Of special concern to neurologists are the sections on tension headache, migraine and epilepsy, but other conditions like hypertension, cardiac arrhythmias and Raynaud's disease are also covered, as well as the relationship of biofeedback to psychotherapy. The overall aim of the volume is to put the subject in perspective, assessing what has and what has not so far been achieved. It is a valuable book in that the '*furor therapeuticus*', a term applied to the zeal of the colonial American Benjamin Rush, is condemned and the emphasis is on a sane, positive and realistic approach to biofeedback. Certainly it suffers from being fashionable but does appear to be useful in certain conditions such as tension headache where other forms of treatment have been largely ineffective. Further, biofeedback has the advantage that it positively involves the patient in therapy. Thus, the patient is not merely required to comply with the prescribed regime of medication but he can take steps to assist actively in his treatment programme. This book is on the whole, therefore, timely and informative.

D. F. SCOTT

MODERN CONCEPTS OF CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE

Edited by J. S. Meyer. (Pp. 181; illustrated; price not stated.) Spectrum Publications: New York. 1975.

The preface to this book suggests that it is a 'practical book written about the diagnosis and management of stroke, or cerebrovascular disease'. Although many of the contributions are excellent it does not achieve, I believe, its aim. One reason for this is the problem inherent in many multi-author publications—namely, the patchy treatment, within a relatively small book, of widely differing areas of disease with mixed underlying pathology.

Mathew's contribution is a detailed scientific account of the methodology of measuring regional