Assessment of Organic Intellectual Impairment By J. McFie. (Pp. 164; illustrated; £4.80.) Academic Press: London. 1976.

It was the author's intention to provide a method of psychological investigation appropriate to neurological patients. It was for the use of psychologists who were willing to accept the concepts of neurology and for clinicians who were willing to learn something of the methodology of psychological testing.

Dr. McFie describes how different parts of conventional psychometric tests may be incorporated into an assessment programme and it is refreshing to hear a psychologist encouraging non-professionals to enter a preserve which is, more often than not, jealously guarded. There is valuable advice about the relevance and interpretation of various tests and this can be extended to the understanding of conventional psychological reports.

In the simplest terms, this method of psychological assessment aims to provide an anatomical localisation for various forms of intellectual dysfunction. In this I think that the author succeeds. However, the availability of safe, non-invasive intracranial investigations, such as computerised axial tomography, lessens the importance of this exercise.

Overall, it is a book which is likely to be of more immediate value to psychologists working in a neurological setting than to the clinician.

I. T. DRAPER

Year Book of Psychiatry and Applied Mental Health 1976 Edited by F. J. Braceland, D. X. Freedman, A. J. Friedhoff, L. C. Kolb, R. S. Lourie, and J. Romano. (Pp. 444; illustrated; £17.40.) Lloyd Luke: London. 1976.

This well-known annual contains selected summaries of papers in psychiatry and related fields that appeared during the year ending June 1975. It has the strength and weakness of previous editions.

The strengths include rapid publication, well-written summaries and comprehensive coverage of certain areas,

with linking commentaries by eminent American authorities. It is true that most of the references are to the American literature, but British and even European journals are also referred to. There are especially good sections, for example, on biochemistry and physiology, on child psychiatry and on pharmacotherapy. The editors concerned are, of course, experts in those fields.

The mean weakness of the book is that certain other fields receive sketchy, even token coverage. As in 1975 the section on suicide is very brief indeed and is limited to six papers from four American journals. Nevertheless, this is a unique collection of readable summaries, mostly of relevant papers. Every psychiatric library should have a copy.

J. L. GIBBONS

F4 Community Psychology. By M. P. Bender. **A4 Perception and Information.** By P. J. Barber and D. Legge. **B3 Values, Attitudes and Behaviour Change.** By B. Reich and C. Adcock. **B4 The Social Psychology or Organisations.** By F. Glen. **B5 Psychology and Social Structure.** By B. Stacey. **D4 Individual Differences.** By R. Kirby and J. Radford. **E5 Motivation at Work.** By H. Murrell. (Pp. 144; A4 and B4 80p; hardback £2.50.) Methuen: London. 1976.

The *Essential Psychology series*, edited by Peter Herriot, comprises 36 titles, 34 now published, divided into 6 units, viz. A experimental psychology, B social, C developmental, D personality, E psychology and work, and F psychology, society and change. The books are of uniformly short length, and of a price no doubt intended to anticipate inflation. They are, however, equipped with reference, name and subject indices, and some also have short lists of recommended further reading, so that guides to more extended study are provided. They appear to be primarily intended for students at polytechnics, but would be useful for introductory or revision purposes to others, used selectively.

The first book in each unit introduces its section, but these, unfortunately, were not sent for review. In the sample available, type of content and treatment varied widely, from an orthodox account of the anatomy of the eye to a political testament.

Students of psychiatry, requiring short and pocketable texts on the topics, might find A4 on perception (mostly visual) and 'information', and D4 on individual differences, suitable. For unit B it would be essential to consult the prejudices of one's teachers and examiners. They, and clinicians in the field, would find some interesting and cogent reflections upon the history and present unsatisfactory state of clinical psychology in F4 on Community Psychology. Some other books in the series—for example, D3 on Personality Theory and F3 on Clinical Psychology—also look as though they would have clinical relevance, judging by their authors.

In view of the heterogeneity of this small selection from a large series, probably the best advice a reviewer could give would be to leaf through one of the books on a topic of interest at a local bookshop. They are easily read: indeed a whole book could be perused in a few visits at some tolerant establishments.

J. A. L. NAUGHTON

Psychiatry in Dissent By A. Clare. (Pp. xvii+438; illustrated; Hardback £7.00, Paper £4.00.) Tavistock Publications: London. 1976.

This is an excellent book, written by a young British psychiatrist. In nine chapters he deals with some of the most important controversies in the theory and practice of psychiatry. He is able to summarise complex theoretical issues clearly and fairly, and to reach conclusions after cogent argument.

The first five chapters form a logical sequence, dealing with the nature of psychiatric disorder and of psychiatric diagnosis in general: there follows a discussion of these topics in relation to schizophrenia. There are three chapters on aspects of management (ECT, psycho-surgery, and compulsory admission). The final chapter, on psychiatric services, is less compelling.

Anyone interested in modern psychiatry should read this book. All psychiatrists should have a copy of it.

J. L. GIBBONS