recent studies of cognitive organization such as the split brain work of Myers and Sperry, or one of Mishkin's or Chow's papers on selective cognitive deficits with focal neo-cortical lesions. Instead we have Papez's paper on emotion and MacLean's elaboration of it; Pribam and Kruger's 'Functions of the "Olfactory Brain"', and Stellar's 'Physiology of Motivation' (both published in the same year); Klüver and Bucy's classic and Shreiner and Kling's more recent study of the same type of behaviour with similar lesions, and two papers on electrophysiological concomitants of conditioning.

Other noteworthy papers are the famous ones of Moruzzi and Magoun on the reticular formation, of Olds and Milner on positive reinforcement from cerebral stimulation, of Hubel and Wiesel on receptive fields of single neurones in striate cortex, and of Bard and Mountcastle on fore-brain mechanisms in expression of rage. These papers are rightly called basic readings in neuropsychology and there is solid profit in this book for any neurologist or psychologist. But the bias towards motivation and the limbic system is very heavy and it should not be thought that this collection covers the field of neuropsychology in a representative fashion. References are given at the end of each paper but there is no index.

M. Piercy


This book gives a short account of the main forms of neurosis and psychosis. It mentions symptomatology, psychopathology, and treatment in each case. It is in general very psychoanalytically orientated, especially in its psychopathology. The plan of the book is to progress from the simple to the more complex so far as psychopathology is concerned. Chapters are included on organic brain syndromes, psychosomatic medicine, and psychiatry in general practice.

It claims to be completely up-to-date. However, a rather striking feature is the almost complete lack of any mention of the many new psychotropic drugs which are proving so useful at a symptomatic level, if no more, in the whole range of mental illness. Apart from this, for its size, the book is reasonably comprehensive. Its exposition is clear. As an introduction to the psychoanalytic approach to general psychiatry it can be recommended. This third edition since 1950 is evidence of its continuing popularity.


The growing rapprochement between psychiatry and public health has been one of the more encouraging post-war medical developments. Though prevention may be their ultimate aim the current opinion of most realistic workers confronted by our present state of knowledge is contained in the title of an article by a Scottish professor of psychological medicine: 'Preventive psychiatry—is there such a thing?' This book, the first of a trilogy, arrives at a more positive point of view by dint of a combination of theory, generalization, anecdote, enthusiasm, and an occasional fact. According to the Foreword by the former director of the National Institute of Mental Health, it '... is not only a primer for the community mental health worker—it is a Bible'. Bibles, it may be recalled, are written for the believer; they can be designed to be read as literature but never as science.


Perhaps it is true, as the editors of this book imply in their introduction, that the great interest taken in the study of personality in the United States is related to the fact that, unlike its European counterpart, American psychology is '... dedicated to the belief in change both temporary and enduring through environmental influences. One's personality, according to this view, is mainly a collecting, sorting, storage, and dispensing centre for the social, educational, and interpersonal experiences'. The reviews in this volume collect, sort, store, and dispense a wide range of information on several important theories of personality and related clinical and experimental studies. The general standard of presentation is never less than competent. Most of the authors are psychologists in the greater Chicago area; it may be doubted whether the second city of any other country could do as well.

Notices

DANISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

An international symposium has been arranged by the Danish Society for the History of Medicine to be held in connection with the International Congress of Neurosurgery in Copenhagen in August 1965. The subject will be Niccolaus Steno and brain research in the seventeenth century. Further particulars may be obtained from Dr. Egill Snorrason, Drosselvej 31, Copenhagen F, Denmark.

INTERNATIONAL NEUROCHEMICAL CONFERENCE

An international neurochemical conference under the auspices of the Neurochemical Commission of the World Federation of Neurology and entitled 'Variation in the chemical composition of the nervous system as determined by developmental and genetic factors', will take place in Oxford from 25 to 30 July 1965. Further information is available from the National Secretary, Dr. G. B. Ansell, Department of Experimental Neuropharmacology, The Medical School, Birmingham, 15, England.