international neurochemical symposium held at St. Wolfgang, Austria, in 1962. The text confines itself to the formal communications and any free discussions which ensued between these is wisely omitted. Each paper is followed by a comprehensive bibliography.

The book is divided into seven sections dealing with functional organization in different species, lipids, proteins, and RNA, amino acids in different species, energy metabolism and function, neurosecretory mechanisms, transmitter substances, and comparative neuropharmacology.

The participants in this symposium were confined to experts, each in his own particular field, and the text read accordingly. This book is not for the practising neurologist interested mainly in the day-to-day problems of patient care, but it will be invaluable to the research worker, particularly those working in the field of biochemistry and physiology of the nervous system. For those, whether clinicians or experimentalists, not directly connected with this field but who have time to browse through the more abstruse pages of the literature, there is bound to be something of interest, whether it be to discover the amino acid composition of the lens of the octopus eye or the latest views on the problems of the blood/brain barrier.

The print is easy to read and the illustrations well-reproduced but the price would seem to be too high for the individual reader and the time taken to publish the proceedings, namely two years, means that much of the information will already be dated.

J. M. Walshe


This fifth volume of the series, produced under the auspices of the International Brain Research Organization, contains 21 lectures given at the third International Meeting of Neurobiologists at Kiel in 1962. It deals with a large number of topics which have the diencephalon as their common denominator and range from the specific and nonspecific thalamo-cortical projections in man based on stereotoxic surgery, through studies on the changes in the electromyogram and gamma efferent activity following diencephalic stimulation, cell shapes, electrical responses and comparative anatomy of parts of the thalamus, to studies on the hypothalamus and epithalamus. The latter include papers on the chemistry of pineal fats, the ultrastructure and effects of light on the anuran pineal, and a number of important contributions on the neurosecretory systems. Many of the papers report on work which was in progress and there is no attempt to link the various contributions, but this excellently produced volume contains a number of papers which have implications beyond the field of the diencephalon and it should certainly be read by everyone interested in the structure and function of the nervous system.


This expensive but well-produced volume contains the proceedings of the third meeting of the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum which was held in 1962. The range of the symposium can be illustrated by the titles of the scientific themes selected for special consideration: 'Methods of comparison of behaviour changes with drugs in animals and man', 'Effectiveness of drugs in relationship to psychological and social forms of treatment', 'Biochemical mechanisms of drug action', and 'Drug action on microstructures'. There were also numerous individual communications and a symposium devoted to a critical assessment of status of psychopharmacology at the end of its first, eventful decade. The contributions to this symposium will help the general reader to understand the limitations as well as the achievements of what one speaker called '... a new epoch in the history of psychiatry'.


Taking as point of departure a lifetime of distinguished personal investigation of the neural basis of the emotions, Professor Hess offers us a synthesis of his conclusions on the nature of the mind/brain relationship. This is perhaps the ultimate problem of the biological sciences. Professor
**Book Reviews**

Hess has made significant inroads on this problem, but on reading his text it becomes increasingly apparent that the attempt is premature. The translator renders a convoluted German original into a translation that falls some way short of meeting conventional standards of English usage.


Medical research workers are increasingly dependent on electrical apparatus for their observations. It is not possible for most of them to have a detailed knowledge of the workings of their apparatus, but it is desirable that they should know the principle behind them, for this will guide them in acquiring the most suitable apparatus and in using it wisely. This book sets out to meet the need should know the apparatus for their observations. It is not being explained herein, but the reader will quickly, during the last decade and many will be interested and indeed fascinated by this well presented description of the physics and the possibilities of ultrasound in relation to a great variety of problems of diagnosis, treatment, and research. Every neurologist, neurosurgeon, and psychiatrist must take an interest in this new field and we are greatly indebted to the author for presenting the subject in such an interesting way.

**ULTRASOUND AS A DIAGNOSTIC AND SURGICAL TOOL**


This is an important new subject that has developed quickly during the last decade and many will be interested and indeed fascinated by this well presented description of the physics and the possibilities of ultrasound in relation to a great variety of problems of diagnosis, treatment, and research. Every neurologist, neurosurgeon, and psychiatrist must take an interest in this new field and we are greatly indebted to the author for presenting the subject in such an interesting way.

**NEUROLOGIE DER WIRBELSÄULE UND DES RÜCKENMARKES IM KINDESALTER**


This volume contains contributions to an international symposium on paediatric neurology held in Berlin (East Germany) in 1962 on diseases of the spine and spinal cord in childhood. The 48 contributions, though mostly from Eastern European countries, included six from France and two from Britain. The absence of American work, probably the most advanced in this subject, makes the symposium unrepresentative of the present state of knowledge in the field. It nevertheless presents a great variety of research approaches often at the clinical level and carried out by practising clinicians in a field to which British research effort is little committed. The symposium is often stimulating and at all points informative. It is warmly recommended to all those who combine a responsibility for the care of children with spinal cord disorder with a knowledge of the German language.

M. KINSBOURNE


This book contains the proceedings of the fifth international congress of child psychiatry. The congress was devoted principally to the primary prevention of mental disorders in childhood; a bold theme to choose in view of the status of current knowledge on this topic. "The main point of prevention is its social implications" writes the editor. Perhaps so, but the most satisfying papers are those which stay close to the investigation of physical factors. Too many contributors merely generalize and pontificate.

TEACHING THE EDUCABLE MENTALLY RETARDED, 2nd ed. By M. D. Garton. (Pp. xiii + 296; 73 figures. $8.50.)


While research on the psychophysiological basis of mental retardation is still in its infancy, the problem of teaching methods cannot be solved by entirely rational means. Empirical methods must be used and the individuality of the teacher must, and should, obtrude. With experience, the teacher develops his own methods and teaching style to suit his temperament. While still floundering, the novice may care to follow some of the very detailed instructions in the book under review, and he can only benefit from the sound advice offered.

M. KINSBOURNE


This formidable volume, competently translated from the German, embodies a remarkable compilation of information relevant to the theory and practice of the new sub-speciality of paediatric neurology. Fundamental neurophysiological facts rub shoulders with highly speculative interpretations of the behaviour of the infant. The origin of ideas of developmental neurology is remarkably fully documented and important sources from 19th century research are, for once, adequately acknowledged. Of definite value as a reference text, this book is also highly suitable for dipping into at random, as on every page there appears at least one remarkable fact likely to give rise to active speculation in the mind of the reader.

M. KINSBOURNE
Book reviews

M. Kinsbourne

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