planning stereotactic work, the omission of millimetre scales from the plates is unfortunate. It is true that the rough orientations of the planes of section can be obtained from the drawings of the external anatomy of the whole brain on which they are marked; and a rough idea of the scale can be got from the stated magnifications of the photographs \((\times 4, \times 6, \times 8)\) from which the outlines of the anatomical drawings have obviously been traced. In the absence of precise measurements and orientation, however, the atlas remains an exceedingly useful source of information about the nuclei and tracts of the rabbit’s mesencephalon and diencephalon, and as a guide to the anatomical literature. Its high price is likely to confine it to libraries, where Winkler and Potter’s splendid old atlas (1911), with its drawings of frontal sections of the whole of the rabbit’s brain, will continue to be consulted as much as ever.

The production is of a very high standard, but the review copy was faulty in the possession of two sets of pages 25 to 32.


This volume reports the proceedings of the Third Symposium of the Parkinson’s Disease Information and Research Center of Columbia University held in November 1966.


This is a short book but it is strongly recommended as an up-to-date account of myasthenia gravis, presenting a balanced view of recent advances and a judicious selection of the world literature. The presentation is very clear and only an elementary reading knowledge of French is required. Criticisms are minor. The reviewer’s autoimmune hypothesis preceded the recognition of the immunological role of the thymus. Figure 3 requires calibration. The significance of Fig. 8 is obscure; unfortunately the paper from which it is reproduced is omitted from the bibliography. But these are small matters in a well-produced monograph for which the author should be congratulated.


‘This book is relatively long on methods and empirical findings and relatively short on theoretical speculation and on implications for clinical practice. This reverses the balance usually found in discussions of schizophrenic patients and their families; it is a literature that tends to be disproportionately speculative and assertive’.

The subjects of the research were the families of 32 schizophrenic patients (subdivided into those with good and poor pre-morbid personalities) and of 17 normal controls.

The data for study were obtained from a family discussion on a topic previously found to elicit divergent opinions; two discussions were held, one involving the parents and the schizophrenic child, the other the parents and the normal child. The recorded data were then carefully analysed with respect to areas such as expressiveness, the strategy of attention-control, the strategy of person-control, disruptions in communications, and responsiveness. This extremely valuable study brings a scientific approach to a field hitherto characterized by woolly and unfounded speculation.


This is the fourth edition of a book which Professor Martini first published in 1931. In the preface, written shortly before his death in 1967, he deplores the fact that the principles and methods set out in his book have not been widely adopted in Germany, as they have in other countries. He attributes this neglect mainly to the inadequate staffing of university clinics and hospitals: it could, however, also be due to the rather intimidating size and style of his manual, which leaves no obvious detail unstated. The work begins with a comprehensive account of the data requisite for evaluating treatment; the appropriate statistical methods; and the use of a computer. This section is clearly intended for comparatively simple operations; such procedures as analysis of variance are not dealt with. The beginner is provided with 11 Fortran programmes written by Dr. Oberhoffer. The second part of the book is devoted to exposition of the special methods for testing the efficacy of treatment for individual diseases and symptoms. Psychiatric disorders are only briefly referred to, but there are sections on the testing of narcotics and tranquillizers, and the alleviation of pain. Neurological conditions covered include disseminated sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, and extra-pyramidal affections. There are many informative passages on such topics as the ethics of double-blind trials, and the problems created by side effects in a therapeutic experiment.

**AUBREY LEWIS**

**EXPANDING CONCEPTS IN MENTAL RETARDATION: A SYMPOSIUM FROM THE JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. FOUNDATION. EDITED BY G. A. JERVIS. (Pp. xiii + 262; illustrated. $12.50.) THOMAS: SPRINGFIELD, ILL. 1968.**

This volume records the papers read at the third scientific symposium of the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation at Boston, probably in 1966. The papers are grouped in sections dealing with genetics, problems of neurogenesis, nutrition and the development of nervous systems, deprivation factors, the biological basis of learning, operant techniques in training, rehabilitation, and physical performance of the mentally retarded. The papers vary from valuable surveys of a limited field to scantly reports of incomplete research projects; workers in subnormality will find this volume valuable if they are selective in their choice of what to read.
THE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR IN THE COMMUNITY.
This book discusses an attempt to devise a mental health programme for the community by training physicians and ministers in the use of standardized questionnaires. The difficulties in assessing its success are frankly examined, but few specific improvements for the future are suggested in this study. This book may interest those intending to embark themselves on a community mental health programme, but few more general conclusions emerge.

AN EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH TO PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS
Psychiatrists have never been happy about diagnosis. They have not been able to agree on the principles of classification or on the clinical application of these principles; individuals have not been consistent in diagnosing a given patient’s condition on different occasions; and the diagnoses made of the same patient by different psychiatrists may vary considerably. The disadvantage of this state of affairs is obvious, especially when choice of treatment or comparisons of prevalence and incidence are in question. For epidemiological research such comparisons are of cardinal importance. To remedy this situation in part, an international enterprise was launched by the World Health Organization. In the initial study experienced psychiatrists from nine countries were shown six case histories and nine video-taped psychiatric interviews; they were asked to diagnose the conditions demonstrated and to fill out a relevant questionnaire.
The analysis of the findings in this promising exercise, which was carried out in London, is discussed in this informative report. Divergencies in diagnosis could be traced to three main sources: variation in observations of clinical features, in the inferences drawn from them, and in the nosological frame of reference. There are also valuable indications of how bias can influence diagnosis, and what statistical and classificatory lessons can be learnt from the exercise.
This was not an isolated study, but the first in a planned series of investigations, to last 10 years. The aims are to standardize diagnosis of the common psychiatric disorders by means of annual meetings in different centres, at which the methods described in this monograph will be used; and to make comparative studies, which would begin with the identification and continuous study of schizophrenia in eight countries with widely different socio-cultural attributes. This part of the plan is also well under way.

AUBREY LEWIS

BOOKS RECEIVED
(Books noticed here may also be reviewed in a later issue)

CORRECTION
The volume number of Progress in Neurology and Psychiatry, reviewed on p. 167 (April 1969) should be 22 at 180s., not 27 at 108s. as stated.
Book Reviews

Aubrey Lewis

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