main large. Several authors have studied factors affecting consolidation. Their variety and the time since the initial memory recording over which they can operate serve to confirm the complexity of the mechanisms involved.

Some papers approach, and one specifically deals with, retrograde amnesia (RA): a condition whose vagaries in man severely test current theories of memory mechanisms. The subjects were rats and it must remain doubtful how far a specific caudate-putamen dysfunction in RA applies to man, a reservation also held about the time and dose dependent features of all RA producing agents.

The book will nevertheless be of interest to students of memory. Clinicians will benefit from seeing the modes of thought and the findings of psychobiologists in this field.

C. W. M. WHITTY


The decision to change rapidly to SI units for clinical practice was probably a wise one but creates problems for every doctor and, in particular, for authors. Many aids to calculation are appearing. This little booklet is a good example with the advantage over some others in giving adult normal reference values. An interesting point is inclusion of reference values on a hospital population and comments on the changes with age and sex. The authors are inconsistent in their use of 'data' (as singular and plural), and reference to the 'pill' is unnecessarily colloquial. Urine area (p. 42) is, fortunately, not a new unit. A page on haematological units would be worth including in the next edition.

J. A. SIMPSON

BOOKS RECEIVED


NOTICE

SECOND ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCHIZOPHRENIA 2–5 May 1976, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York. Theme: 'The origin, pathogenesis and course of schizophrenia and related disorders'. Details from Mrs Joyce Yutzy, Executive Assistant, Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14642, (716) 275-3512, U.S.A.