

reviewed. It is well written, excellently bound, and contains, as would be expected, the appropriate informative tables of statistics.

Apart from the planners and the historians who will study it carefully, it will be dipped into by those who were 'there at the time'.

A. M. SHENKIN

PAEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY FOR PAEDIATRICIANS AND NEUROSURGEONS By K. Till. (Pp. 312; illustrated; £11.50.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1975.

Almost all neurosurgeons in Great Britain are called upon to treat children, and for this reason this book emanating from the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, arouses wide interest in British paediatric and neurosurgical circles. In his text Mr Till analyses the clinical features and results of treatment in his own cases, and, by thus recording his personal experience, gives authority to the text. Perhaps as a natural result of this certain idiosyncrasies are seen; for instance, though he frees us from the previous dogma that excision of membranes is necessary for the treatment of chronic subdural haematoma, how many would feel that a subdural pleural shunt is the primary treatment of choice? The chapters on congenital abnormalities, especially spinal dysraphism, which are both succinct and clear are particularly valuable and of greatest interest to the practising neurosurgeon. However, as the style of the book tends to the didactic there are statements in the text which many readers will feel unable to accept. The quality, selection, and reproduction of some of the radiographs is somewhat disappointing, and I am surprised to find no illustrations of studies utilising water soluble contrast media. Disappointing, too, is the absence of any real discussion on, and no examples of, the use of computerised transverse axial tomography in the management of the young neurosurgical patient. A more complete bibliography, particularly coming at the end of each chapter, would have been a useful addition to the book, as presumably it has been written primarily for trainee neurosurgeons and paediatricians.

The reviewer was irritated by the considerable amount of wasted space, and surely this should have been avoided in a book so relatively expensive. There are also typographical errors in the text either due to faulty type-setting or inadequate proof reading.

Inevitably, comparison will be made between D. D. Matson's classic work and this current publication, and the former will I believe, and I am sorry to say it, probably still be consulted in preference when guidance is needed with difficult, or unusual, paediatric neurosurgical problems.

J. A. RUSSELL

METHODS OF PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH 2nd edn. Edited by P. Sainsbury and N. Kreitman. (Pp. 312; illustrated; £5.50.) Oxford Medical Publications: London. 1975.

Unless the aspiring research worker is lucky enough to begin training with a mentor who has both a high level of scientific skill and the ability to teach and supervise his pupil adequately, he may well founder and develop bad habits in research techniques which may persist ever after. Unfortunately, this seems to be the case among some who purport to carry out research into mental illness. In 1963 Drs Sainsbury and Kreitman edited a multi-author handbook designed to give guidance to those entering the fields of psychiatric or psychological research, which was very popular. It has been extensively revised and the new edition contains a good deal of very useful information, ranging from the basic problems encountered in selecting a research problem and the all important matter of gaining financial support, through the design and conduct of experiments in various fields, together with the evaluation and the way in which information should be presented as a scientific paper. The chapters abound with sensible advice set against a background of numerous and well-selected references. Obviously each author is able to present only an illustrated general view of his or her field of interest, but the editors have chosen them with care and provided a text which should be as well received as its predecessor.

MICHAEL R. BOND

NOTICE

American Association for the Study of Headache: Twelfth Annual Harold G. Wolff, M.D. Lecture Award This award (of \$1,000.00) is made for the best original paper on headache, head pain, or the nature of pain itself, and may be concerned with basic research, clinical studies, or both. All physicians, including those in training, are eligible. Winner of the 1976 award: K. M. A. Welch (UK) 'A biochemical comparison of migraine and stroke'. Papers should be submitted to Dr Otto Appenzeller, Department of Neurology, University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Albuquerque, N.M. 87131, by 1 February 1977. Details from that address.

CORRECTION

In the abstract of a paper by J. Mohan, D. J. Boullin, and C. B. T. Adams on the effect of dopamine on human cerebral arteries (Proceedings of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons, *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry*, 39, 921), the first word of the second paragraph should read 'dopamine' and not 'histamine'.