ing attention in the medical literature the authors of this monograph have done a useful service by bringing together a great deal of valuable information concerning dystrophia myotonica and related disorders, including myotonia congenita, paramyotonia and hyperkalaemic periodic paralysis. Their review of the literature is comprehensive and detailed and is throughout interspersed with the results of their own observations of a large number of cases. Dr. Caughey's interest in these disorders has been well known for many years; particularly to be recommended are his chapters on the natural history of dystrophia myotonica and upon cardiac involvement and endocrine function, while the chapters by Dr. Myrianthopoulos on genetic aspects and upon the interrelationship of disorders accompanied by myotonia are also well done. Few monographs of this type are, however, immune from criticism and this reviewer must confess to a sense of disappointment that so little is said in this volume about the many electrophysiological studies of myotonia which have been carried out in recent years. The section on electromyography is telegraphically brief and there is no mention of the E.E.G., which has been shown to be abnormal in many patients with dystrophia myotonica. It might also have been useful to comment upon the relationship between the human disease and the closely comparable disorder which is seen in dystrophic mice of the Bar Harbor strain, but the latter disorder is not mentioned. Nevertheless, as a review of the present state of knowledge concerning dystrophia myotonica and related disorders, and as a reference source, the book can be confidently recommended.

EPILEPSY—A CLINICAL AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS OF 1020 ADULT PATIENTS WITH EPILEPTIC SEIZURES By Palle Juul-Jensen. (Pp. 148; 19 figures; 38 tables. 22s.) Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1963.

This monograph surveys the clinical and social findings in a group of 1,020 epileptics over the age of 16 and seen at the Århus Kommunehospital. The author reviews previous literature and then gives his own findings under various headings. The outcome is therefore a useful review as well as an addition to knowledge.

It is interesting that pathogenesis remains unknown in 643 of 1,008 patients investigated, and that neoplasm accounts for only 37 cases. The latter is certainly a surprisingly low figure. The electroencephalogram in resting records was normal in 41 % of the group. Most abnormality was generalized but when it was lateralized it did not always correlate with the clinical signs. This is a fair assessment of the value and lack of value of E.E.G.s in diagnosis.

The social findings are interesting but must be considered in terms of the Scandinavian social setting. Thirty-six per cent of the patients had social difficulties due to epilepsy, but only 10% had unemployment problems. Of the whole group, only 55 were considered to need formal rehabilitation. This figure must of course depend on the assessment of need, and also to some extent on the background social services available for epileptics. Of car driving, the author says that many epileptics in his series do in fact drive, a position which exists in this country also. Unfortunately figures for

accidents caused by actual attacks are not given. Finally on the question of crime in epileptics, the incidence of convictions for both males and females in this series shows no significant difference from that of the general population.

These are some examples of much useful factual information the book contains.

C. W. M. WHITTY

UNDERSTANDING EPILEPSY By R. Kemp. (Pp. vii + 93. 15s.) London: Tavistock Publications, 1963.

This small book is intended for the epileptic patient and his relatives. Its purpose is to help them to understand what epilepsy is and to gain their collaboration in its treatment and management. The intention is excellent, but the author appears at times not to be familiar with the day-to-day clinical problems of epileptics and in consequence his endeavour is occasionally hampered. Thus it is not emphasized that the employment problem depends largely on the state of the local labour market: that fellow employees may be more difficult than employers; that when there is a personnel officer, to engage his sympathy is one of the best ways of having an epileptic accepted in a job; that there are circumstances where medical advice should be against disclosing epilepsy. Carrying an identifying card in bag or pocket is sensible and useful; wearing a badge is unwelcome to most patients and to suggest it is unrealistic. The Cohen Committee Report is accepted uncritically. Some of its recommendations are controversial amongst those caring for epileptics. The discussion of drug treatment is rather old fashioned but the general advice about the value of drugs is sound. The limitations of surgical treatment is well done and necessary in this era of 'Your life in their hands' and other similar T.V. programmes. In discussing the nature and causes of epilepsy it might have been better to emulate the approach of Lennox and other authorities and emphasize that the tendency to fit is probably common to all brains: it is the ease of elicitation that varies. This allows the question of what is and is not epilepsy to fall more readily into perspective. Some mention of the many successful and famous people who suffered from epilepsy would have been valuable. Despite these strictures, however, the book will be useful to many patients if only because of its encouraging emphasis on the positive aspects of modern treatment and management.

For such a slim volume the price of 15s. seems excessive.

C. W. M. WHITTY

HEADACHE AND OTHER HEAD PAIN By Harold G. Wolff. (Pp. xvi + 773; illustrated. 120s.) London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

This second edition of Dr. Wolff's well-known monograph on headache appears shortly after his unhappily early death. It contains many new experimental observations on headache and some additional clinical information. Much of this comes from his own work and that of his school. The chapter on general consideration of pain remains an excellent and compendious review. His continually fact-finding approach to headache is refreshing and rewarding even though detailed methods may some-

times be criticized. One third of the book is devoted specifically to the problem of migraine. It remains a thorough and discriminating survey and again experiment applied to the questions that arise pays heavy dividends. In dealing with the debated problem of headaches and arterial hypertension and changes in intracranial pressure, simple clinical experiments are again invoked to separate fact from speculation.

Lest it be thought that the book is simply a laboratory manual it should be emphasized that the clinical situation and the obtrusive element of the emotional factor in pain are not overlooked. Thus of the surgical treatment of head pain . . . 'there is probably no harm and may be occasional benefit in the judicious use of an operation performed as a clinical trial; but the indiscriminate use of operations on patients, many of whom have prominent emotional disorders, is out of keeping with the sound principles . . . of neurosurgical effort'.

A chapter summarizing the clinical features in the differential diagnosis of headache is a useful conclusion to the book. As would be expected a full list of references to both classical and more recent work is given. This will continue to be a valued source book for neurologists and clinicians concerned with headache and for the physiologist interested in mechanisms of pain.

C. W. M. WHITTY

SPEECH AND THOUGHT IN SEVERE SUBNORMALITY By N. O'Connor and B. Hermelin. (Pp. xi + 122; 22 tables. 25s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1963.

Recent advances in the psychology of thought and language have barely begun to be related to the neurology of higher mental function. The present work goes some way towards remedying this, in relation to the formidable problem of mental deficiency. The authors have consistently and systematically applied modern methods to the qualitative analysis of the ways in which backward children perceive, speak, and think. A substantial body of personal work is here presented in the context of an unusually comprehensive review of the relevant recent literature, with emphasis on the researches of Professor Luria of Moscow, who contributes a preface to the monograph.

It is on psychophysiological studies of this kind that rational teaching methods will ultimately be based. Neurological disorders of children, of which mental backwardness is the most common, are attracting increasing attention. Neurologists may in the future be much concerned in cooperative work with psychologists and teachers within the sphere of this monograph.

M. KINSBOURNE

DIE ENTMANNUNG VON SITTICHKEITS VERBRECHEN By Albrecht Langelüddeke. (Pp. 240.) Berlin: Walter de Gruyter & Co.

Castration remains a controversial procedure among forensic psychiatrists. In this monograph Professor Langelüddeke reviews the several facets of this subject and presents the results of a large series in Germany. He comes down strongly in favour of the operation in selected cases and he presents much of the evidence on which his conclusions are based.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRAIN AND ITS DISTURBANCE BY HARMFUL FACTORS By B. N. Klosovskii. Translated and edited by Basil Haigh. (Pp. xiii + 275; 53 figures. 70s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1963.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS OF MENTAL ACTIVITY Edited by R. H. Peon. (Pp. 283; illustrated. 90s.) Amsterdam, London, and New York: Elsevier Publishing Company, 1963.

DÉSAGREGATION, RÉGRESSION ET RECONSTRUCTION DANS LA SCHIZOPHRÉNIE By J. Burstin. (Pp. 181.) Toulouse: Edouard Privat, 1963.

SAMMLUNG ZWANGLOSER ABHANDLUNGEN AUS DEM GEBIETE DER PSYCHIATRIE UND NEUROLOGIE Heft 24. Zur Klinik der encephalographische diagnostizierten hirnatrophischen Prozesse By Wolfgang Fischer. (Pp. 98; 13 figures. DM. 11.10.) Jena: Veb Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1963.

PERCEPTION AND THE CONDITIONED REFLEX By Ye. N. Sokolov. Translated by S. W. Waydenfeld. (Pp. x + 309; 83 figures. 80s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1963.

MOTOR FUNCTION IN THE LOWER EXTREMITY By J. Klose. (Pp. xiii + 156; 131 figures. \$10.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1963.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF NEUROBIOLOGY, Vol. 5, 1964. Edited by Carl C. Pfeiffer and John R. Smythies. (Pp. xi + 439; illustrated. 100s.) New York: Academic Press Inc, 1963.

NOTICES

The sixteenth Congress of the Società Italiana di Neurochirurgia will be held in Genoa on 21 and 22 November 1964. Further information from the Secretary, Dr. Giulio Morello, Via Celoria, 11, Milan Italy.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STEREOENCEPHALOTOMY

The second international symposium on stereoencephalotomy will be held in conjunction with the next international neurological and neurosurgical congresses. Part I dealing with technical aspects and results will be held in Copenhagen on Saturday 28 August 1965 immediately following the third international congress of neurological surgery. Part II, dealing with neuro-medical, neurophysiological, neuropathological, radiological and other aspects, will be held in Vienna on 4 September 1965 preceding the international neurological congress.

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