mainly what this book is about, is not commonly a serious one in neurosurgical patients, and only rarely is it encountered in those with head injury who receive water, salt, and sustenance on a basis only of sensible empiricism, helped by fluid-intake-output charts, electrolyte and urea estimations, and, above all, by a knowledge of the normal pattern of metabolic response to surgery and injury. Dr. Wise gives the sound warning that 'the administration of water to the post-operative patient is the factor most directly under the surgeon's control, and one that requires maximum caution', but he seems more reluctant than many of us are in this country to make an early change from the intravenous route to the more physiological one of the naso-gastric tube. We are left a little in the air during the chapters on hypo- and hypertonicity (these ambiguous words are, of course, used here in relation to natraemia and the osmolality of the blood and not to neuromuscular activity). In practice, it may be very difficult to know how much importance to attach to the symptoms and signs attributed to these states, which can be clinically similar not only to one another but also to the underlying brain disorder, to blood circulatory dysfunction, and to post-operative 'cerebral oedema' which, to get back where we started, may itself be an effect of hypotonicity.

When Dr. Wise has had no experience of something, he says so, and this is refreshing; but it will perhaps disappoint neurosurgeons not to find more information about two of their more vexed problems. I should have liked to have seen much more about brain swelling, and had expected to be able to read the author's views on the place, if any, of steroids in the treatment of this complication; but space in this commendably concise book is precious, and I hope that we may have later from the same pen the critical and authoritative account which is badly needed. His book, however, is the only one of its kind, and neurosurgeons will be grateful that Dr. Wise has filled this gap in the literature of their speciality.

JOHN POTTER

PROGRESSIVE PARALYSIS By Wilhelm Zeh. (Pp. viii + 199; 20 figures, 5 tables. DM. 45.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1964.

Relatively little has in recent years been written on neurosyphilis. The monograph under review is welcome for its exhaustive treatment of general paralysis of the insane, not so much for the description of the clinical syndrome, which has been well documented, as for the wealth of information on the outcome of ancillary investigations during the course of the disease and its treatment. The author, Professor of Neurology at Bonn, in a final section develops psychophysical correlates into a psychiatric philosophy, a theoretical exercise of less interest to British readers.

M. KINSBOURNE

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE, ANNUAL REVIEWS 1965. British Postgraduate Medical Federation. (Pp. ix + 344; illustrated. 40s.) University of London: The Athlone Press. 1965.

This volume reports 19 lectures delivered under the auspices of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation

during 1963 and 1964. These are thus authoritative reviews presented in a relatively simple form.

THE ESSENTIALS OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, 2nd ed. Revised. By C. J. Polson. (Pp. xvi + 600; 153 figures. 105s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1965.

This textbook will be welcomed as an enlarged and improved second edition of a successful treatise on forensic medicine. Professor Polson, in his prefaces, declares that his primary aim was a text for medical undergraduates and for them, despite size and price, the book remains eminently suitable. It will also be of value to a much wider reading public including, despite the author's disclaimer, specialists in forensic medicine who will turn to this work for reference. The price reflects the size of the book and the number of the illustrations, most of which are excellent.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHIATRY, 3rd ed. By Max Valentine. (Pp. viii + 320. 24s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1965.

This small book is a good introduction to psychiatry, particularly as practised in the United Kingdom. It attends not only to the main clinical categories of psychiatric disorder, but also to the administrative and legal aspects of psychiatric practice which must impinge on almost all those engaged in psychiatry within the National Health Service. This is the third edition of the work in 10 years which speaks for itself. The present edition appears up to date both in its basic clinical thinking and in the legal and social implications of the Mental Health Act of 1959. Within its compass of 320 pages it covers briefly all the main aspects of psychiatry, and if readers pursue even a quarter of the references given to each chapter they will be well-informed about modern psychiatric thought. It concludes with a number of case interviews or case histories exemplifying typical clinical conditions. These are valuable practical additions; indeed, the whole work is essentially a practical manual. It can be recommended as an introduction for students and a useful stand-by for general practitioners.

PSYCHOSOMATIC RESEARCH A Collection of Papers By J. J. Groen and others. (Pp. x + 318; illustrated. 80s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1964.

Psychosomatic medicine in one sense is all medicine. It is used increasingly in a specialized sense to mean the effect of emotion, especially chronic emotion, on states of bodily health. Even in this sense it is a major part of medical practice. The present volume reviews research in this field carried out largely in a centre in Amsterdam. It covers the three main fields of psychosomatic interest in the past decade or two: asthma, gastrointestinal disease, and cardiovascular, especially hypertensive, disease. To these are added some more theoretical papers.

The report of leucotomy and psychotherapy as a successful treatment for a case of essential hypertension with an adequately lengthy follow-up is of much theoretical and practical interest, especially in view of Russian reports of conditioning therapy in this condition.

The book is a valuable record of the work of a group largely inspired by Professor Groen, and can be recom-