language. This is not a book to read but a 'lucky dip' can be rewarding and it is a valuable library aid.

J. A. SIMPSON

HÉMISPASME FACIAL PÉRIPHÉRIQUE. CONTRIBUTION CLINIQUE ET E.M.G. À L'ÉTUDE DES HÉMISPASMES FACIAUX ET AU DIAGNOSTIC DIFFÉRENTIAL DES CONTRACTIONS ET HYPERCINÉSIES FACIALES. By Michel Jesel. (pp. 498, 35 figures; 65 F.) Éditions Doin, Paris, 1965.

Dr. Jesel accepts the clinical separation of two types of hemifacial spasm, one following facial paralysis and one not (hémispasme facial primitif). In the first part of his thesis, he reviews the clinical knowledge and aetiological theories that have been put forward in the last hundred years, and the various ways in which they have been treated. In the second part he describes the clinical and simple electromyographic features of 52 cases of post-paralytic hemifacial spasm and 25 cases of 'primitive' hemifacial paralysis, and case details are to found in the appendix. In the third part he discusses the differential diagnosis from other facial dyskinesias and from contracture.

Although there is a wealth of interesting information in this book, it is to be regretted that the facial nerve has not been studied in more detail, particularly from the aspect of its taste fibres and from the point of view of its motor nerve conduction velocity, which is of great importance in providing objective evidence of defective motor function, so extending, amplifying, and aiding the interpretation of the electromyographic findings in general.

A facial reflex (McCarthy's reflex) has been recorded, but its latency and its other features have not been measured, so that *quantitative* data on facial nerve and motor neurone function are not available from this study.

GEOFFREY RUSHWORTH

ÉTUDES SUR LA MÉMOIRE. By J. Barbizet, Deuxième série. Paris: Expansion Scientifique Française. 1966.

Until there is some advance in knowledge of the neurophysiology of learning, clinicians interested in memory are unlikely to achieve more than careful observation of amnesic patients and informed speculation. In this context, Professor Barbizet has added his own distinguished contribution to what is now a generally accepted corpus of opinion.

The second volume of *Études sur Mémoire* includes theoretical considerations (the structural continuum of memory and its 'meta-structure'; the role of the frontal lobes in complex programming; the relationship between sensation and perception) and clinical case material (qualitative interpretations of the nature of memory impairment and confabulation in alcoholics and patients with severe brain injury).

Professor Barbizet gives a lucid exposition of his system of classifying the amnesias: those of hippocampal origin characterised by anterograde amnesia; the cortical amnesias, in which the immediate memory span is impaired but it is possible to retain what has been learned slowly and with difficulty; mixed or global derangements of memory. It is surprising that he accepts Miller's magical figure 7 as a 'physiological constant' in the

adult memory span as the noun span for normal adults is nearer 5 (Talland, 1964). Or that there is no reference to neuropsychological data indicating the differential affects of left, as compared with right, frontal lobe damage (Milner, 1964). But this is to cavil at a work which elegantly illustrates current achievements in a very difficult field.

TRAPPED: FAMILIES AND SCHIZOPHRENIA. By L. H. Rogler and A. B. Hollingshead. (Pp. 436. \$8.95.) New York London: John Wiley. 1965.

This uncommonly readable monograph reports the methods, observations, and conclusions of a survey made in a Puerto Rican slum between 1957 and 1960. The purpose of the study was to see how social forces impinge on schizophrenics and what effects their illness has on their families. Twenty families with a schizophrenic wife or husband were found in San Juan, an industrial city on the north coast of the island; the requirements were that the affected person should be between 20 and 39 years old, of low socio-economic status, and only recently in contact for the first time with a psychiatric clinic or other facility. A control group, free from schizophrenia but in most other respects like the schizophrenic group, provided data for statistical and other comparisons. The whole investigation was very carefully planned and successfully executed, against considerable odds.

The social characteristics of the schizophrenic families are intensively studied and their pre-morbid similarity to those of the normal group demonstrated; after marriage, however, at a recognizable point things went awry in these patients. Troubles mounted, and the manifest illness developed in one or both spouses. The relevance of this to the problem of aetiology and the way in which the couple coped or failed to cope with their tribulations are soberly and critically discussed; the help they extracted from spiritualism, for example, is convincingly explained in its therapeutic aspect.

The Achilles heel of the research is in the diagnostic criteria of schizophrenia. Full case records have not been included but from the illustrative material provided it can be inferred that a much more liberal concept of schizophrenia was used by the psychiatrists in Puerto Rico than would be acceptable here. This is, however, an almost inevitable state of affairs, until criteria for the diagnosis have become a matter of international agreement and consistent application. Apart from this defect, the study is a model of sociological thoroughness and clear presentation. Its findings are not startling but they are well founded in systematic and close observation; they suggest further lines of investigation and possibilities of preventive action.

COMMUNITY AND SCHIZOPHRENIA. An Epidemiological Analysis. By H. Warren Dunham. (Pp. xxv + 96 tables. \$12.50.) Detroit: Wayne State University Press. 1965.

Ever since he and R. E. L. Faris wrote their pioneering study of mental disorders in urban areas Professor Dunham has played a respected and active role as a student of the sociology of psychiatry. The present work reflects the experience and critical restraint arising from