APPLIED ELECTROMYOGRAPHY By A. A. Marinacci. (Pp. x + 298; illustrated. 88s.) Henry Kimpton: London. 1968.

This is not a systematic treatise, being based on contributions to the *Bulletin of the Los Angeles Neurological Society*. The author has a wide experience which could have been helpful for beginners, but, unfortunately, the material is based on personal opinion and differs radically from the consensus. The illustrations are poor; it is not recommended.

J. A. SIMPSON

NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN CLINICAL PRACTICE 2nd Edition. By Edwin R. Bickerstaff. (Pp. xii + 378; 86 figures. 63s.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford and Edinburgh. 1968.

This is an excellent and up-to-date guide which can be confidently recommended to all students of clinical neurology. The author is to be congratulated on a first-class work.

COMPOSITION OF PERIPHERAL NERVES By Ian A. Boyd and Mary R. Davey. (Pp. viii + 57; 31 figures, 9 tables. 30s.) E. & S. Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1968.

This is a useful guide to those who wish to make a special study of the physiology and structure of peripheral nerves.

CONGENITAL ANOMALIES OF THE CAROTID ARTERIES By T. A. Lie. (Pp. x + 143; illustrated. 84s.) Excerpta Medica Foundation: Amsterdam. 1968.

This monograph describes the embryology of the cerebral blood vessels in man and illustrates the various anomalies of development which become evident during angiographic studies of the cerebral circulation.

PSYCHOSOCIAL NURSING—STUDIES FROM THE CASSEL HOSPITAL Edited by Elizabeth Barnes. (Pp. xx + 316. 27s. 6d. paper back, 63s. hardback.) Tavistock Publications: London.

The Cassel Hospital is well known as an institution devoted exclusively to the treatment of patients by psycho-analytical means. Over the years there has been a change from a patient-centred orientation to a community-based approach in which both staff and patients find their role. This book is a series of essays by a number of staff members describing these changes as they have affected mainly the nursing staff. There seems to be an inordinate number of forewords, introductions, and editorial notes before one reaches the substance of the book, but once there it makes for interesting reading. Everything is, of course, seen in terms of the roles of individuals, and their interactions in the community, much being interpreted in analytical terms, but readers who are not particularly enamoured of the psycho-analytical approach will find much of value. For instance, the discussion about sedation explores the question as to when drugs are given for the benefit of the patient and when they are really being used to 'treat' the nurse in the sense of enabling her to tolerate the otherwise intolerable, a problem not confined to the wards caring for patients with psychoneuroses.

The sections on mothers and children in hospital will have wide appeal, as will that on the selection and training of nurses and relationships within the nursing hierarchy. It is not all of the selection procedures which will commend themselves to those choosing nurses for general training, but awareness of some of the problems will help to make those engaged in this task more critical of the time-honoured methods commonly employed.

The book, therefore, will have a wider appeal than to those immediately engaged in psychiatric nursing and could be read with profit by all engaged in nursing and all concerned with relationships in small communities.

JOHN MARSHALL

THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS IN THE COMMUNITY.

Edited by G. R. Daniel and H. L. Freeman. (Pp. viii + 83. 16s.) Baillière, Tindall and Cassell: London. 1968.

Britain may well claim to be one of the world leaders in community medicine, and psychiatry to be the leader in the field of medicine. This small book records a symposium held in London in November 1967. The speakers combine idealism with realism, and tell of their own difficulties and successes in this difficult area: Baker (Banstead) on psychiatric nursing in the community; Crumpton (Broadgate) on drugs; Early (Glenside) on the role of industry; Freeman (Salford) on the structure of the local authority and hospital service; May (Ministry of Health) on organization and efficiency; Silverman (Blackburn) on a comprehensive psychiatric service centred on a general hospital; and Whitehead (speaking of his work at Severalls) on the care of the aged. Each contribution is lively, stimulating, and informative, and the book can be unreservedly recommended as an introduction to a field of growing importance.

In parenthesis, the reviewer has developed over the years a facility in reading medical journals without seeing the advertisements; the sponsorship and organization of this symposium by E. R. Squibb and Sons together with the National Association for Mental Health, will keep the name of one drug firm favourably in his mind.

COMBINED EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS By R. B. Forney and F. W. Hughes. (Pp. v + 124; 8 figures, 4 tables. \$6.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1968.

The book begins by reviewing the pharmacology of ethanol. Although this is primarily a reference book, the large amount of material is clinically and lucidly presented and each chapter has a helpful summary. The second portion of the book is devoted to the effects of ethanol when taken in combination with other substances. These vary from anticoagulants to antifreeze and a surprisingly large number of commonly used drugs have a different action when taken in combination with alcohol. There is a full bibliography and index.

Although on a very restricted topic, the book is admirably produced and contains much of interest to pharmacologists and physicians. It will be a useful reference book for those with toxicological or forensic problems.