unsatisfactory but Dr. Allen does well to arrange them under four rubrics: disorders of sexual expression; of the instinctual object; of the sexual stimulus; and of the instinctual strength. In an otherwise splendidly produced book, the reviewer noted nine errata.

This volume is a standard book for any professional worker seeking knowledge in this particular field.

A. BALFOUR SCLARE

DRUGS AND THE BRAIN Papers on the Action, Use, and Abuse of Psychotropic Agents. Edited by Perry Black. (Pp. xi + 403; figs; 95s.). Johns Hopkins Press: Baltimore. 1969. London agents: IBEG Ltd.

The old jibe about the lack of treatment in neurology and psychiatry is no longer true. Quite suddenly there are so many drugs available that few practitioners have been able to keep up to date with them. The rapidly expanding knowledge of cerebral physiology comes just in time to systematize knowledge of drug action. Certainly there will be wrong steps, misleading analogies, and false conclusions, but the degree of understanding is already impressive. This book is, therefore, timely. Like all books of multiple authorship it has its high points and its parts which were better unwritten, but the general result is good. The thirty chapters are grouped into parts: (1) basic considerations; (2) psychochemotherapy; (3) 'memory enhancers'; (4) LSD; (5) alcoholism; (6) drug abuse. This is a useful collection. Anticonvulsants are not dealt with.

DAS DEPRESSIVE SYNDROM Internationales Symposium Berlin am 16 und 17 Februar 1968. Edited by H. Hippus and H. Selbach. (Pp. xv + 665; 75 illustrations; 130 tables. DM 98). Urban and Schwarzenberg: München. 1969.

This volume contains the proceedings of an international symposium on depression held in Berlin in February, 1968. The papers presented by 61 contributors cover many of the important aspects of this common affective disorder. The contents are set out under 12 general headings: biochemistry, genetic aspects, autonomic variation, course and periodicity, depressive defect states, transcultural aspects, personality profiles, research methodology, classification, psychopathology and clinical features, psychosomatic and psychotherapeutic aspects, and physical treatment. Each section is followed by a brief but pertinent discussion, and an appendix containing the various rating scales for depression is found at the end of the book.

In his closing remarks at the end of the conference, Dr. Lehman was tempted to compare the event to an intellectual marathon race and something of this impression is transmitted to the reader on first opening the pages of this volume. Like many publications of this kind, however, it is not to be read from cover to cover, but to be sampled and digested at leisure. The format enables the reader to do so with ease and the general production of the book is of a high standard. With one exception, all the papers are in German and a summary in English would have been helpful to English readers not conversant with the German language.

KURT SCHAPIRA

AN APPROACH TO COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH By Gerald Caplan. (Pp. ix + 262; 21s.). Tavistock Publications: London. 1969.

This short book by Gerald Caplan, first published in 1961, makes a welcome appearance in paperback form. During the intervening years, Dr. Caplan's course of instruction in community mental health has become one of the most widely known in the U.S.A., and indeed in the world. For anyone who contemplates studying with him at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, in Boston, this book can still serve as valuable preliminary reading; and for those who cannot hope to do so, it provides a useful introduction to his teaching. Although it does tend, in American style, to brandish terms like 'conceptual framework', these are mercifully few. From the start, the reader is confronted with concrete situations such as juvenile delinquency, family crises, pregnancy, bereavement. After looking at the personal and social contexts of these events, Caplan discusses in very practical terms what the nurse, the social worker, and the family doctor can do towards preventing emotional disorders. In a concluding chapter on 'Comprehensive Community Psychiatry' he spells out, again in very clear, practical terms, the basic services and facilities which a modern community ought to provide, in order to deal effectively with its mental health problems.

G. M. CARSTAIRS

EPILEPSIE FIBEL (A Primer of Epilepsy). By A. Matthes. (Pp. viii + 108; illustrated; DM 16.80). Thieme: Stuttgart. 1969.

This short book addressed to the general practitioner is packed with useful information. The classification of the epilepsies is dealt with in pragmatic manner with the admission that neither the symptomatology of the fit, nor aetiology nor electrophysiology alone provide a useful schema. The greater part of the book is devoted to practical problems of dealing with patients suffering from epilepsy. This includes genetic counselling, vocational guidance, and treatment. In keeping with the author's main interest, epilepsy in childhood receives special attention. It is unavoidable that in a short book some dogmatic statements are made which can be questioned; an example of this is the statement that sleep is the only useful method of activation; or that sclerosis of a sector of the hippocampus is a consequence of the fits. Nor does the reviewer believe that EEG supervision of treatment is essential. The author regards normalization of the EEG as one of the aims of treatment, a view not shared by many British neurologists. As one often finds, the references to literature in the author's language are up to date, whereas references to authors writing in other languages are sparse and mostly old.

However, as a book which a general practitioner can consult when faced with a case of epilepsy, it is sensible and reliable.

S. L. LAST

SUBCORTICAL CORRELATES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR A Psychological Study of Thalamic and Basal Ganglia Surgery. By Manuel Riklan and Eric Levita. (Pp. xii +