335; illustrated; £8). E. & S. Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1969.

It is extremely difficult to review a book like this. Any relationships to the English language and scientific evidence are purely coincidental. The authors are psychologists who have collected 'rather limited test data and observations derived from relatively restricted groups of parkinsonians examined before and after brain surgery', data which conflict with those of other observers.

On the basis of empirical observations, the authors speculated that the basal ganglia, and particularly thalamic structures, represent critical pathways in the process of transformation of sensory information into perceptual and cognitive experience. Their investigations point to a quantitative correlation between the impairment of perceptual-cognitive functions, and the severity of the physical manifestations of Parkinsonism, but there were no specific behavioural features which could be correlated with specific lesions. A possible role of the 'central activating system' of the physiologist in 'directed-activation' of higher psychical functions is postulated, but the proposition carries no more conviction for being argued at length without adequate experimental evidence.

J. A. SIMPSON

DREAM PSYCHOLOGY AND THE NEW BIOLOGY OF DREAMING

Edited by Milton Kramer. (Pp. xxiv + 459; \$17.00). Thomas: Springfield. 1969.

The comparatively recent finding of electrophysiological correlates of dreaming has resulted in a resurgence of interest in dream content analysis. Section 1 of the book is devoted to an exposition of various theoretical views about dreaming from the Freudian through the cultural-

ist to the existentialist. Although the aim of the section was to explore the implications of recent EEG studies of dreaming for each of the view points, few authors made more than passing reference to this; they concentrated on giving potted accounts of their predilections about dreaming. Snyder, however, does highlight many of the problems raised for the dream theorist when reviewing the physiology of dreaming, while Hawkins indicates the problem of integrating current work to Freudian theory, and presumably other similar theories, since the majority of current research is psychophysiological.

Experimental studies of dreams comprise the second section. If the first section hoped to throw down the gauntlet to the experimentalist, he ignored it in large measure; and rightly so. Witkin, in a long chapter, explores the myriad factors influencing dream content, factors ranging from pre-sleep films to subject-experimenter interaction as does Domhoff.

Like so many symposium proceedings, this one promises much but leaves the reader disappointed. It is unfortunate that the tenor of West's introduction and the contribution by Snyder was not maintained.

STUART A. LEWIS

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STEREOENCEPHALOTOMY

A Symposium will be held in Freiburg/Breisgau on 29 September 1970 in association with the annual meeting of the German Society of Neurosurgery (30 September-1 October 1970). Information may be obtained from Professor Dr. Fritz Munding, Neurochirurgische Universitätsklinik, D 7800 Freiburg/Breisgau, Hugstatterstrasse 55.