THE NERVOUS SYSTEM: STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION IN DISEASE. By D. M. Robertson and H. B. Dinsdale. (Pp. 204; illustrated; £6.25.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1972.

Though to many medical students modern neurophysiology may seem more dramatic, it is still neuroanatomy and neuropathology that provide the soundest basis for a wide understanding of neurological diseases. Now that courses at most medical schools are being reorganized so that clinical medicine and pathology are studied concurrently, a book of this kind linking neuropathology and neurology is welcome. This emphasis, however, precludes any extensive or systematic discussion about treatment except where, for example, in Parkinsonism this is a reflection of the pathological disturbance of the disease process. This raises the question of how many textbooks of neurology a student will read because this book, excellent though it is in its way, could not supplant a general textbook of clinical neurology. Perhaps we should be thankful that there are as many kinds of medical students as there are of doctors. I am sure many students will find this book gives an interesting balance with the tantalizing bait of some up-to-date information on recent neurochemical advances. My only complaint is of the price of £6.25, for which I think we ought at least to expect some colour photographs which would add to the attraction of the neuropathology.

ROGER BANNISTER

HYDROCEPHALUS AND THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID By Thomas H. Milhorat. (Pp. 237; illustrated; £8.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1972.

This monograph brings together information about hydrocephalus in a form intended primarily for clinicians. The chapters cover the causes, effects, diagnosis and management of hydrocephalus, and they are excellent reviews of the subject. The illustrations are of good quality, and the book is well arranged and easy to read. The text is supported by extensive bibliographies to each chapter, there being over 700 references quoted. The references are given in the text by name and year; this is unusual in present-day medical books from the United States, and many will consider this arrangement to be the most helpful in a monograph, although not suitable in undergraduate or postgraduate texts.

The book has been written by a distinguished surgeon who has made original contributions to the operative management of hydrocephalus, and the surgical features of the subject are therefore well covered. Unfortunately, however, the text is sometimes a little thin in aspects which might be of more interest to physicians. For example, the composition of cerebrospinal fluid is only briefly discussed in just

over a page, which seems inadequate in a book which includes cerebrospinal fluid in its title. Another example is the very limited discussion of the differential diagnosis of dementia. Although this book gives an excellent review of all diagnostic techniques which are currently in general use, it fails to mention the exciting recent development of tomography by means of computerized transverse axial scanning.

Nevertheless, this book is strongly recommended for reference in its field. The author has produced a text which is of value for reading in depth, and its arrangement of headings, each section being followed by a clearly written summary, also makes it useful for quick referral.

RALPH H. JOHNSON

PRINCIPLES OF CHILD PSYCHOTHERAPY By J. D. Clarke. (Pp. 226; \$10.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1972.

This is an ambitiously conceived book, written from Professor Carek's wide experience in the U.S.A., yet it is relevant to British N.H.S. hospital-based child psychiatry. It is practically based, but the author is able to avoid making too expansive use of case material to illustrate his principles. These 'principles' are derived from individual therapy which has as its aim ego strengthening and insight and, although a wide bibliography is referred to, the psychotherapy seems broadly based on Anna Freud's work. The difficult task of organizing the complex subject has been thoughtfully approached. The style is ponderous and lacks the eloquence of other authors in that field, thus conveying a deliberate avoidance of persuasiveness. There is a good deal of healthy questioning of widely held beliefs, reflecting an attitude of self-criticism that is essential to therapy. Yet at times this self-criticism borders on being destructive of the essential confidence in one's craft—for instance, the author discusses the point that physical restraint seems to be less often necessary as the therapist gains in experience, only to query whether the experienced therapist perhaps avoids taking on patients with such needs (p. 23). The book has thus much to offer to the experienced therapist who has faced such doubts in himself; it should also be useful for the supervisor, but it cannot be recommended for the beginner in child psychotherapy who is in need of clearer guide lines than are offered here.

IAN LOWIT

MENTAL RETARDATION: PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS AND INFANT ASSESSMENT By C. P. Douglas, and K. S. Holt. (Pp. 64; illustrated; £1.80.) Butterworths: London. 1972.

This small volume reports symposia held in 1970 and the spring of 1971 on the important topics named in

the title. It consists of five lectures and verbatim discussion. The subject of antenatal diagnosis is a rapidly growing one, not only with the continued emergence of new techniques for intrauterine investigation but also because of the accelerating proliferation of differentiated genetic disorders, chromosomal and metabolic variants in particular. Thus, while many of the cautionary warnings remain very true (the tragedy of an erroneous antenatal diagnosis is no small one) and are sufficient reason for careful reading of L. J. Butler's lecture, it is unfortunate that publication delay makes much of what was then new material now somewhat dated. The papers on infant developmental assessment are more concerned with prediction of less obvious, but not less important, deviations from the norm; they point to difficulties in evaluation which remain far from solution. Sandwiched between the title topics is a short lecture on fetal audiometry by R. J. Bench. Seemingly a little out-of-place here, it opens intriguing windows on fetal neurophysiology. But whether these highlights justify the publication of symposia of this kind is another question.

J. B. P. STEPHENSON

THE BRAIN IN UNCLASSIFIED MENTAL RETARDATION
By J. B. Cavanagh. (Pp. 333; illustrated; £5.)
Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1972.

This is a study group report, comprising 18 lectures together with formal and informal discussions. Unlike so many symposia the sections are well integrated, the whole well-edited and the subject matter of more than ephemeral interest. Hopefully, it may kindle the enthusiasm of emergent neuroscientists for study of the developing rather than the mature nervous system, with prospect of prevention rather than treatment of neurological disorder. Any doubt that 'mental retardation' should be regarded as a neurological problem must be removed after study of Professor Jellinger's paper on neuropathological findings in over 1,000 patients in whom retardation was first manifest before 3 years of age. Over 90% of these brains showed evidence of organic damage or dysgenesis. Jellinger's analysis suggests aetiological mechanisms in certain groups (vascular accidents *in utero* for example) but he admits that classical neuropathology should not be expected to solve this type of problem. Elsewhere in the book the same problem is approached from other angles. Topics discussed include vascularization of the developing brain; neuronal numbers (birth, migration, differentiations, and death), nutritional, hormonal, and enzymatic aspects of brain development; teratological sensitivity and timing, including prenatal viral infection, chemical insults, and a consideration of

the perinatal factors affecting development of low birth weight infants. Other papers on epidemiology, growth, psychological and psychiatric aspects, EEG, biochemistry and other neuropathological aspects add to the picture but are not always so stimulating as the more fundamental presentations. But the book as a whole deserves to be owned and read by anyone with an interest in developmental neurobiology.

J. B. P. STEPHENSON

YEAR BOOK OF PSYCHIATRY AND APPLIED MENTAL HEALTH Edited by F. J. Braceland, D. X. Freedman, A. J. Friedhoff, L. C. Kolb, R. S. Lourie, and J. Romano. (Pp. 437; £6.75.) Lloyd-Luke: London. 1973.

In his introduction the chief aim of the editors of this book is to make their readers aware of what they regard as the danger of pressure groups within psychiatry and elsewhere, which seek to place much of the responsibility for mental illness upon deficits in society. Apart from playing down the contribution of organic factors, this view has a much more serious aspect—namely, its effects upon attitudes towards treatment. In particular, the practice of discharging increasing numbers of chronically sick individuals into communities ill-prepared to receive them is condemned. In order to reinforce their opinion that there is 'ferment in clinical practice and research' the editors have collected, through a series of subeditors, abstracts of papers from the whole spectrum of psychiatric literature. Unfortunately, these contributions are not always linked with the main theme through an introductory section, and at times it is difficult to understand why certain papers have been selected.

As a reference work this book is of limited value, and it is likely to be of interest only to those responsible for university and departmental libraries.

MICHAEL R. BOND

NOTICE

Administration in Mental Health. This new Journal from the National Institute of Mental Health, U.S.A., may be obtained free of charge from the editor, Saul Feldman, D.P.A., NIMH, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852, U.S.A., to whom also manuscripts should be submitted.