Book reviews

HEMISPHERE FUNCTION IN THE HUMAN BRAIN Edited by Stuart J. Dimond and J. Graham Beaumont. (Pp. 398; illustrated; £7.50.) Elek: London. 1974.

Most readers will be aware of the important findings of experimental and clinical workers on 'split-brain' syndromes and the implications for disconnection theories of aphasia and for concepts of cerebral hemisphere dominance. Much of the literature is in journals of experimental neurology and psychology. It is, therefore, valuable to have a collection of papers from most of the prominent workers in this field. Although a certain amount of overlap or disagreement is inevitable in a book of this type, the editors have made a splendid collection of the important topics with good references to original work and sufficient informed speculation to encourage others to explore the fascinating byways. The book is very well produced at a reasonable price. The reviewer found it compelling reading.

J. A. SIMPSON

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, VOL. 99. Edited by S. A. Trufant. (Pp. 308; \$16.50.) 1975.

This annual volume, always welcome as advance information on the best of American neurology, on this occasion reports a joint meeting with the Association of British Neurologists. This year's presidential address by C. H. Millikan is on cerebral vasospasm associated with subarachnoid haemorrhage due to ruptured intracranial aneurysm. Surprisingly, it seems to have no effect on mortality, or on the frequency and severity of complications.

J. A. SIMPSON

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM 2nd ed. By W. B. Matthews and H. Miller. (Pp. 362; illustrated; £4.25. Blackwell: Oxford. 1975.

It is a pleasure to welcome the second edition of this deservedly successful neurological textbook. It is, as the authors state in their introduction, intended specifically for students and designed for reading rather than reference. In these aims it succeeds admirably, and the text retains much of the freshness and flavour of actual ward teaching. The chapter on neurological symptoms (headache, paraesthesiae, pain, dizziness, and so on) is a particularly valuable feature, and makes pleasurable reading for neurologists of all ages.

Considering the size and range of the book, therapeutic aspects receive admirable coverage, and

instructions for treatment are both sensible and clear. The few photographs of diagnostic radiographs which are included are well reproduced, and will give the student a good idea of what neuroradiological techniques can achieve.

Although this book is intended for students, its size should enable it to fit comfortably in the pocket of a resident's ward coat. The resident starting on his first neurological firm would be well-advised to take this with him, and to study it carefully during his appointment.

R. W. GILLIATT

BEHAVIORAL NEUROLOGY By J. H. Pincus and G. J. Tucker. (Pp. 205; illustrated; £2.40.) Oxford Medical Publications: London. 1975.

Although derived from a lecture course originally intended for medical students, this small and easily read book provides an admirable survey of the classical borderland between organic neurology and psychiatry. Much of this material will be quite familiar to experienced physicians in these specialties but there will be few who can learn nothing from it. Among others there are brief accounts of the pathology of violent behaviour, and the relationship between behaviour disorders and epilepsy. There is a lucid chapter on schizophrenia, and another on the biogenic amines.

The distinction between neurology and psychiatry, fostered to some extent by convenience, has done much to hamper constructive thought about common problems. *Behavioral Neurology*, free from idiosyncratic terminology, or a narrowly partisan philosophy can be recommended to trainee neurologists and psychiatrists, psychologists, and those therapists whose work is concerned with higher neural function. A knowledgeable appreciation of complementary interests should stimulate a more confident approach to common problems.

I. T. DRAPER

NEURAL INTEGRATION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS AND BEHAVIOUR By G. J. Mogenson and F. R. Calaresu. (Pp. 442; illustrated; £17.50.) University of Toronto Press: Toronto. 1975.

This book is a collection of articles which have been prepared to commemorate the work of the late J. A. F. Stevenson. The central theme, in keeping with his interests, concerns central mechanisms in homeostasis, and the editors have been fortunate in obtaining the collaboration of a distinguished group

of collaborators from all over the world. After the first two chapters by F. C. McIntosh and J. R. Brobeck which directly concern Stevenson and his work, there is a short historical chapter by A. F. Adolph. The remainder of the book comprises 24 review articles which cover the whole field of homeostasis, and the regulation of energy balance, with particular reference to the hypothalamus and the limbic system. Subjects which are reviewed include the control of feeding behaviour, salt and water balance, respiration, body temperature, neuroendocrinology, and the clinical consequences of disorders of function of the hypothalamus and limbic systems.

As such, it covers an extensive area of neurophysiology, and the articles, which are high level reviews in which the authors discuss the present state of knowledge in their own field of work, will be of great interest to active workers in this field of study. Clinical readers may find parts of the book difficult but there is much in it to interest the neurologist, and many will be grateful to the authors for providing an authoritative account of the present position in a rapidly growing field.

J. A. R. LENMAN

BIOLOGY OF THE MAJOR PSYCHOSES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS. Edited by Daniel S. Freedman. (Pp. 384; illustrated; \$22.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1975.

It is fair criticism of books based on symposia that they are of transitory value, being based on selected contributions at an arbitrary point in time and not placed in context as in the true textbook. For this reason, neurologists and many psychiatrists will be disappointed in this volume but it is recommended for quick scanning as an indication of concepts which are generating research into the biology of mental disease. Is progress being hindered by clinical classification based on markers of doubtful validity? Are there biological measures specific to the schizophrenic or the manic-depressive psychoses, or to specific aspects of these? It is the old dichotomy of the lumpers and the splitters.

There are fresh looks at clinical and genetic criteria. Speculations about neuro-integrative disorders in schizophrenia are too hazy for rigorous testing, but some consistent abnormalities of EEG and evoked potentials, neuromuscular abnormalities, and pursuit eye movements are pointers to minor neurological differences in psychotic patients. Naturally, the greatest interest is currently in the role of amines and neurotransmitters in mental disease, with some indication that Ungerstedt's dopaminergic mesolimbic system may be important in the neural substratum of thought processes in the human.

There is still no definitive evidence for single-transmitter, single-disease theories of mental disease as opposed to disordered balance of homeostatic control, a problem made more difficult by non-specificity of action of drugs used as probes for transmitter systems. Nevertheless, it is apparent that it is becoming possible to formulate hypotheses which can be investigated by reasonable experimental techniques.

J. A. SIMPSON

THE AFRICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY Editor in Chief John C. Ebie. Literained Press: Lagos.

The Association of Psychiatrists in Africa is a small but vigorous group transcending national boundaries. Though their scientific orientation is European, they are eclectic in their approach to indigenous medicine, which is often of particular relevance in psychiatry. It is a mark of their confidence in the future that they have launched at this time a new journal. The first article is by the late Sir Aubrey Lewis on the first Pan-African Psychiatric Congress held in Nigeria.

The *Journal*, published in English and French from Lagos, Nigeria, is well produced and has got off to a good start. All will wish it a successful future.

J. A. SIMPSON

NOTICES

WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD International Congress on Transcultural Psychiatry. University of Bradford, 27-31 July 1976. Main theme: 'Migration and its ensuing social and psychological consequences'. Details from Conference Secretariat, International Congress on Transcultural Psychiatry, Room N2, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP, England.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: 'COMPUTER ASSISTED TOMOGRAPHY IN NONTUMORAL DISEASES OF BRAIN, SPINAL CORD, AND EYE' Sponsored by National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, 12-15 October 1976, Clinical Centre, NIH. Topics: physics, technology, and clinical aspects of transmission and emission computer assisted tomography. Deadline for abstracts: 1 August 1976. Details from Dr Giovanni Di Chiro, National Institutes of Health, Section on Neuro-radiology, Clinical Center, Room 2D13, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRIC SURGERY This Society was officially founded at the IVth World Congress of Psychiatric Surgery in Madrid on 9 September 1975. The President is Dr S. Obrador (Madrid) and the Secretary-general Dr J. Siegfried (Zürich). Details of membership may be obtained from Professor J. Siegfried, Neurochirurgische Universitätsklinik, Kantonsspital, CH-8091 Zürich, Switzerland.