HANDBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY VOL. 18: TUMOURS OF THE BRAIN AND SKULL, PT 3 Edited by P. J. Vinken and G. W. Bruyn. (Pp. 582; illustrated; Dfl. 198.00.) North Holland: Amsterdam. 1975.

This volume of the *Handbook*, the third on tumours of brain and skull, continues the high quality of its companion volumes. Clinical parts are somewhat dated by being pre-EMI scan. Unnecessary duplication, criticised in previous volumes, is reduced to a minimum and we are given a series of excellent monographs which will be the definitive account for a number of years.

J. A. SIMPSON

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE By R. R. Tilleard-Cole and J. Marks. (Pp. 290; illustrated; £6.95.) MTP: Lancaster. 1975.

This is a remarkable attempt to compress the basic data of psychiatry into 282 pages. The authors state (p. 1) that the 'contents were originally formulated by the needs of postgraduate colleagues who have attended our courses at the Oxford Institute of Psychiatry'.

Looking at chapters in sequence one must say that anatomy (chapter 2) is uninspiring with too much emphasis on the anatomy of the spinal cord. Chapter 3 'physiology and biochemistry of the nervous system', is clear, dogmatic and relevant. Chapter 4 is too long and too general for the psychiatric postgraduate. Chapter 5, 'man as an individual' is very readable and pertinent, but chapter 6, 'social man', consists of a mass of sociological platitudes. Chapters 7 and 8 were reasonable and chapter 10 'critical ages of man' was most interesting. It was chapters 9 and 12 which provoked some anxiety. Chapter 9 'psychiatric disorders and their classification' includes the outdated subdivision of schizophrenia into simple, hebephrenic, catatonic, etc., and fails adequately to present either Schneider's views on the first rank symptoms, or the more recent emphasis on operational definitions. Again (p. 198), there is a quite antiquated reference to paranoia and paraphrenia, surely concepts chiefly of historical interest. There is reference to depression and mania in this chapter but no adequate description of bipolar or unipolar manic-depressive illnesses or their management. In chapter 11 we have again reference to 'historical' drugs—for example, amphetamines, reserpine, and LSD, whereas neither fluphenazine decanoate or flupenthixol decanoate gets even a commendation.

Having made all these critical comments, I would add that the book reads easily and is indeed well written. If I had a nephew who was due to sit the

MRC.Psych examination and had, to my knowledge, done no work at all I would send him this book for his birthday.

ALISTAIR FORREST

ADOLESCENCE: THE CRISIS OF ADJUSTMENT. Edited by Simon Meyerson. (Pp. 189, paper-back £2.35; hard-back £4.25.) and ADOLESCENCE AND BREAKDOWN. Edited by Simon Meyerson. (Pp. 140; paper-back £1.95; hard-back £3.95.) Allen and Unwin: London. 1975.

It is a commonplace to say that our present society has maximised the role and status of young people. The problems and stresses of adolescence are discussed in detail in these two volumes written by a group of experts at the Tavistock Clinic in London. They provide a valuable source of specialist information.

The first volume discusses the nature of puberty, family relationships of adolescents, aspects of personality and sexuality, the adolescent's view of authority, protest, creativity, and adolescent groups. Two important chapters on the phenomena of normal adolescence are contributed by Dr A. Hyatt Williams.

In the second volume attention is devoted to various psychopathological manifestations of adolescence—emotional and social conflicts, educational dropouts, delinquency, acting-out, drug abuse, and depression. Aspects of treatment, including family therapy are ably reviewed by Dr J. Byng-Hall.

These two companion volumes will go far in guiding the psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker engaged in helping disturbed young people.

A. BALFOUR SCLARE

ABNORMALITIES IN PARENTS OF SCHIZOPHRENICS By S. R. Hirsch and J. P. Leff. (Pp. 200; £5.50.) Oxford University Press: London. 1975.

This is an excellent book; a good review of the literature and a most interesting account of some of the authors' own research.

Experimental evidence suggests to psychiatrists that the parents of schizophrenics are sometimes odd, or eccentric, and at times use communication forms which are obscure and hard to follow. These observations are not confirmed to any significant extent by the research described in this book. The reasons for this are not clear, but problems of sampling, selection, and diagnosis must be considered. Many of the American studies relate to whole families, each member of whom has been under therapy and investigation for years; they must be considered statistically and financially