

Book reviews

THE PERCEPTION OF CAUSALITY By A. Michotte. Translated by T. R. and Elaine Miles, with a commentary by T. R. Miles. (Pp. xxii + 460; 6 diagrams. 45s.) London: Methuen & Co. Ltd. 1963.

This is a new and enlarged edition of the book, first published in 1946, in which Michotte gave a full account of his classic series of investigations into the conditions in which a causal relation between two events is directly perceived as opposed to appearing as a mere *de facto* succession. The extremely elegant and simple experiments, of which upwards of a hundred are described, break entirely fresh ground in experimental psychology while retaining throughout a close connexion with everyday experience of things, events, causes, and effects. Perception of these may be, and often is, disturbed in cerebral disorder and it is surprising that the opportunity which Michotte's techniques offer of enquiring quantitatively into the forms of such disturbances has not so far been seized on. To both neurologists and psychologists who are alive to fresh possibilities in the analysis of disorders of higher level cerebral function this book can be most warmly recommended.

R. C. OLDFIELD

THE WAKING BRAIN, 2nd ed. By H. W. Magoun. (Pp. vii + 188; 100 figures. \$7.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

In recent years there have been startling advances in knowledge regarding brain mechanisms, and this further edition of a well-known publication provides a valuable presentation of the latest discoveries.

The picture that is emerging has two striking features. First there are the driving systems such as arise from the reticular formation and from the limbic system, but there is a strong effect in both directions—from cortex to generating systems as well as in the other direction. The other remarkable development is concerned with the thresholds of the peripheral sense organs which are controlled both by the influence of alerting systems and also by a feedback protective mechanism. In this vital field knowledge is advancing rapidly, and Dr. Magoun is an authority many will be glad to consult in these pages.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

BIOCHEMISTRY OF MENTAL DISEASE By Theodore L. Sourkes. (Pp. xxiii + 402; 39 tables; 3 figures. 96s.) New York: Harper & Row. 1962.

The importance of biochemistry in psychiatric research is not lessened by the prematurely acclaimed discoveries which have in the event disappointed those who want to see the chemical pathology of schizophrenia uncovered.

Dr. Sourkes's dependable and well-organized book covers a great deal of ground. It is evidently intended for psychiatrists who have only a meagre knowledge of biochemistry; a large part of the manual is devoted to the

normal processes of intermediary metabolism. The sections dealing with morbid states and with the action of drugs are detailed and informative but insufficiently critical.

PSYCHIATRIE DER GEGENWART Edited by H. W. Gruhle, R. Jung, W. Mayer-Gross, and M. Müller. Volume 1, part 2: *Forschung und Praxis*. (Pp. viii + 1,056; 91 figures. DM. 110.) Berlin: Springer Verlag. 1963.

This volume, which deals with the foundations and the methods of psychiatry, is appropriately weighty and methodical. The four main divisions are psychopathology and psychological examination; psychotherapy; somatic therapy; and philosophic principles. The contributors are, for the most part, Swiss, with a sprinkling of German, English, French, and American writers. Most of them are, for the English reader, unduly wordy, and, in the philosophical section, unhappily focused on existential analysis, to the point of being incomprehensible. The somatic chapters, however, in the competent hands of Professor Max Müller and his colleagues in Berne, are close-tied to the factual processes they describe, and include a heroically elaborate article on drug treatment which, with its 165 pages, is the longest in the book. A companion volume on laboratory methods is due to appear shortly which will contain articles by Conrad Strömngren, Hassler, Jung, Bleuler, Giljarowskij and other noted authorities on biochemistry, genetics endocrine changes, and other solid matters; this will no doubt correct the impression made by the abstruse and flocculent themes that take up so much of the volume under review.

ASPECTS OF PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH Edited by D. Richter, J. M. Tanner, Lord Taylor, and O. L. Zangwill. (Pp. viii + 445; 36 figures; 17 tables. 63s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1962.

This review of progress during the last decade has the familiar merits—diversity, authenticity, recency—and the familiar defects—unevenness, bias, and omissions—which characterize most such compilations. The editors of this volume, who evidently believe there is safety in numbers, have collected an impressive band of contributors, most of them specialists in the subjects they describe. The chapters by Sir Geoffrey Vickers and Lord Taylor are of a more general character, and, in their rather partisan arguments, out of keeping with the rest. It will be a signal achievement when the progress of psychiatric research calls for an annual, instead of a decennial, review.

THE SCOPE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY IN PSYCHIATRY By Tsung-Yi Lin and C. C. Standley. (Pp. 76; 2 figures. 5s.) Public Health Papers, No. 16. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1962.

This is the second W.H.O. public health paper to be devoted to the subject of psychiatric epidemiology in the

past three years. It comprises a rather enthusiastic review of a wide field which takes in the statistics of mental disorder, the various efforts which have been made to conduct population morbidity surveys of mental disorder, and studies of the 'aetiology and evolution of mental illness'. So wide, indeed, is the authors' conception of the scope of epidemiology in psychiatry that the critical reader may well wish to remind himself of its limitations by referring back to Professor Donald Reid's earlier monograph. There is a useful bibliography of 277 references.

PROBLEMS OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY Transactions of the Leningrad Scientific Society of Neurologists and Psychiatrists, vol. III Edited by I. F. Sluchevskii. Translated by A. Crozy. (Pp. viii + 376; illustrated. £5.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1962.

This book consists in the main of 44 papers reviewing a circumscribed problem as illustrated by experiences with a small or large group of patients. It appears that the evidence required for the support of a hypothesis is in general less stringent than with us, partly because of an absence of statistical backing, and partly because of a preference for deductive rather than inductive reasoning. It is easy to select articles in which our views seem to be more advanced than theirs. (For, instance there is an article on 'Characteristics of development and course of concussion of the brain' in which deterioration after a lucid interval is discussed without mention of extradural or subdural haemorrhage.) However it is more profitable to be alert to the significance and promise of notions unfamiliar to us. Every reader will find some suggestive ideas; the reviewer was most stimulated by the prospect of studies on conditioning as a means of throwing some light on the nature of psychopathy.

METHODS OF PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH Edited by P. Sainsbury and N. Kreitman. (Pp. 175; 17 figures. 35s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1963.

This book consists of 14 papers presented as a series of seminars organized in 1960-61 under the auspices of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. The subjects were selected in order '... to introduce psychiatrists working in a mental hospital to the basic procedures, methods, and techniques of clinical research, particularly those who had not had the opportunity of a post-graduate academic training'. The topics are therefore all designed and presented with a view to giving the would-be investigator some down-to-earth assistance with the practical as well as the theoretical problems he may encounter. Inevitably the contributions are uneven in quality, but if the publication of this book succeeds in furthering the editors' intention to 'encourage clinical research in the mental hospital' it will have served a useful purpose. For this reason it deserves to be widely circulated.

PROGNOSIS IN FUNCTIONAL PSYCHOSES By Christian Astrup, Arne Fossum, and Rolf Holmboe. (Pp. xvi + 210; 50 tables. \$8.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This book gives the results of a careful follow-up of some

1,000 cases of schizophrenic and affective psychosis admitted to Gaustad Mental Hospital in Norway between 1938 and 1950. Patients were studied for at least five years after the first admission and some for over 20 years. The study thus provides valuable and much needed facts about what happens to these patients. In the light of their follow-up the authors try to assess the prognostic value of individual clinical factors, particularly those emerging early in the illness. They also examine a number of social factors and hereditary and familial aspects of their cases in relation to prognosis. Their findings in general support many of the clinical impressions that psychiatrists have reported. In surveying their results they are also able to make some suggestions about the general mental hygiene and provision of social facilities in the prophylaxis and early assessment of these psychoses. The book will prove a useful service of facts for psychiatrists and those concerned with the mental aspects of public health.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF PSYCHIATRY 1535-1860 By Richard Hunter and Ida MacAlpine. (Pp. xxvi + 1107; 204 figures. 84s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1963.

The history of psychiatry has so far attracted relatively little serious study. One reason for this neglect is the complexity of the subject matter: by comparison with other branches of medicine, as the authors of this remarkable book point out, '... psychiatric theory and practice have throughout been influenced in much greater measure by social, humanitarian, economic and theological pressures, by legislative interference and control designed to protect the insane deprived of their liberties and rights, and by legal difficulties of insanity bound up with questions of civil and criminal responsibility'. To map this huge terrain would constitute a major undertaking. Drs. Hunter and MacAlpine have pointed the way. Their method has been to present some 330 extracts from original sources, arranged chronologically over three centuries, and to introduce each extract by short explanatory notes. Most of their sources are English; their themes are '... clinical and pathological observations, nosologies, theories and therapies, and the care of the insane as well as social and legal attitudes to mental illness'. The result is a *tour de force*, a fascinating treasure trove for the merely curious and something more for the reader who makes use of the generous index to pursue particular topics, many of which bear disconcertingly on contemporary discussion. Psychiatry has still to find its historians, but whoever they may be will remain indebted to the care and labour which have been invested in this valuable compilation.

TRENDS IN THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Edited by Hugh Freeman and James Farndale. (Pp. xv + 341. 70s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1963.

No less than 37 writers have been mobilized for this work; and no less than half the papers they are responsible for have been previously published in various journals and proceedings. The other half are mostly addresses at symposia, presenting material already

familiar to those interested in the administrative and social aspects of hospital care and community services. It is no doubt convenient to have papers on this highly topical theme assembled in one volume, but it is in this case an expensive luxury.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, 10th ed. By Sir Francis Walshe. (Pp. xii + 381; 60 figures. 35s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1963.

This famous textbook has now reached its tenth edition since 1940 and unlike some books it seems to improve with each edition. Inevitably the slim volume of 1940 has now become a book of 380 pages but this is due to inclusion of new material and the writing is still as concise as it always has been. There is a new chapter by Dr. John Walshe upon liver-brain relationships and the neurological consequences of their disorders. It is always interesting to read in successive editions a senior clinician's views on changing ideas in diagnosis and Sir Francis's comments on acroparaesthesiae and cervical spondylosis are an excellent illustration of this.

As the author says in his preface, the book is intended for general practitioners and students, and reviewers do not belong to the circle of readers for whom the book was designed, but one reviewer at least thoroughly enjoys reading the book and considers it the best available neurological textbook for undergraduates.

NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN CLINICAL PRACTICE By Edwin R. Bickerstaff. (Pp. x + 357; 84 figures. 50s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

The concept of neurology as an academic exercise, which is intellectually satisfying but therapeutically sterile, is still prevalent. Dr. Bickerstaff effectively disposes of this outmoded view in his opening chapter and in graphic style goes on in chapter 5 to show that neurology is very much a part of general medicine orientated towards the diagnosis and relief of disease. His statement: 'As vascular accidents form so large a part of neurological work . . .' gives the key to his approach. It is as a practical neurologist that he writes. The whole of part I is excellent, offering, as it does, the fruits of clinical experience and keen observation. Neurological examination is seen to be a fascinating exercise which embraces the patient as a whole and not just his nervous system.

An unusual and helpful feature is a chapter outlining when it is advisable to submit to full neurological investigation patients suffering from such commonly occurring conditions as headache, migraine, epilepsy, and strokes. Practitioners and general physicians see so many patients with these afflictions that it would be manifestly impossible, as well as undesirable, to refer them all to a neurologist and often they seek guidance on this point. They will find it here.

There is, however, one point of management on which the reviewer would strongly disagree. The unqualified statement is made that 'No patient with papilloedema should have the cerebrospinal fluid examined, unless burr holes have already been made and the ventricles

could be tapped if necessary'. If this advice were followed it would mean that in the case of patients with meningitis who develop papilloedema vital time would be lost before the bacteriological diagnosis was made and therapy instituted.

Nevertheless, the book as a whole is one which can be strongly recommended and which readers will find exceedingly helpful.

HANDBUCH DER NEUROCHIRURGIE IV Band/3 Teil. Klinik und Behandlung der raumbeengenden intrakraniellen Prozesse III. Edited by H. Olivecrona and W. Tönnis. (Pp. iv + 674; 213 figures. DM. 296.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1962.

This work, like its predecessors, is beautifully produced with superb reproductions of radiographs. It is also encyclopaedic in its approach and content. Five hundred and seventy-nine of its pages are devoted to the clinical and radiographic features of intracranial tumour diagnosis, and the balance is expended on the value of isotopes in diagnosing brain tumours. High class encyclopaedias, such as this, are really above criticism, but it must be admitted that they have a relatively limited appeal in our current era of specialization. The established specialist will have already acquired most of the knowledge contained in this book, whilst to most others the sheer size of the book will prove discouraging. However, encyclopaedias do have a real use, for those who are not neurological surgeons may occasionally wish to look up facts concerning a particular group of brain tumours and their method of presentation. Moreover, there is no doubt that this book would be of considerable value to the young neurosurgeon in training if he was prepared to read it carefully. This book should be on the shelves of any large training centre where the staff will have time to consult it.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

MENTAL ABNORMALITY AND THE LAW By H. Jenner Wily and K. R. Stallworthy. (Pp. 543. N.Z. price: 63s.) Christchurch, New Zealand: N.M. Peryer Ltd. 1962.

MENTAL SUBNORMALITY By W. A. Heaton-Ward. (Pp. 88. 7s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1963.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGIE UND PSYCHOTHERAPIE By Carl-Frederich Wendt. (Pp. vii + 81. DM. 14.80.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1962.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STEREOENCEPHALOTOMY, STEREOTAXIC SURGERY. Reprint from "Confinia Neurologica", vol. 22, no. 3-5, pp. 165-396 (1962). Edited by E. A. Spiegel and H. T. Wycis. (Pp. 232; 37 figures; 10 tables. sFr. 38.) Basel: S. Karger AG. 1963.