claims made by those who have studied fossil remains of primitive man.

POLIOMYELITIS Proceedings of the VIII Symposium of the European Association against Poliomyelitis and Allied Diseases held in Prague, September 1962. (Pp. 559; illustrated. 42F.) Paris: Masson & Cie. 1962. Now that the great American National Foundation has apparently lost interest in poliomyelitis, the European Association provides the only international body devoted to the eradication of this disease. This report of the Prague conference contains many authoritative papers on current work in virology, epidemiology and prevention of the disease, and includes national reports from 20 countries. These describe some of the first campaigns of mass oral administration of attenuated live vaccine, which have exerted such a great influence on national programmes throughout the world. Among the papers on physiological and clinical problems are contributions from Simpson (Edinburgh), Thieffrey (Paris), and Spalding (Oxford).

OPTOKINETIC NYSTAGMUS By J. Lawton Smith. (Pp. xi + 141; 44 figures. $6.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963. The clinical neurologist is often neglectful of the more mechanical varieties of physiological apparatus and this is especially so in connexion with the various available methods for studying vision and eye movements. This lecture reminds us that parietal lesions lead to an extinction of optokinetic nystagmus to one side, sometimes even when there is no hemianopia. On the other hand, an occipital hemianopia with macular splitting will retain optokinetic nystagmus to movement in both directions. Some of the neurological statements in this volume are startling (!), but the authors have done a useful service in reminding neurologists of the potential value of optokinetic nystagmus, not only in diagnosis but also in brain research.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

HISTOCHEMISTRY Theory, Practice and Bibliography. By T. Barka and P. J. Anderson. (Pp. 660; illustrated. 139s.) New York, Evanston and London: Harper & Row, Publishers Inc. Hoeber Medical Division. 1963. This book is valuable particularly for its bibliography. This contains 5,000 references, citing full titles of papers, and covers the literature on histochemical methods up to 1961. The authors decided not to describe all procedures in detail but to give recipes only for those which are at present regarded as reliable. This means that some useful methods such as the Luxol fast blue stain for myelin lipids are not included, but references to this and many other methods whose chemical specificities are not yet proven, are cited. The chemistry of the reactions involved is given in fair detail, there is an appendix listing formulae, molecular weights and other data pertaining to the substances quoted, and there are the usual tables for making up buffers. The index could be better. A useful addition to the histologist's library.

MODERN DRUGS FOR THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS By Donald Blair. (Pp. 327. 50s.) London: Staples Press. 1963. This is an outstanding book. The various drugs used in modern psychiatric practice are classified in groups, discussed in their groups and then individually, with regard to pharmacology, clinical uses, side-effects, preparations, and dosage. For each drug there is given the chemical structure, and chemical, approved, and proprietary names, together with the cost. There are numerous tables: some compare the varying activity towards different target-organs of drugs within a group; another lists those preparations beneath whose proprietary names the amphetamines may lurk undetected: yet another lists the composition of polyvitamin tablets. Yet this volume is no mere compilation: the author's extensive personal experience illuminates the problems involved in treatment, for instance, in modifications of the orthodox dosage, in timing of the administration of drugs, and in matters indirectly associated with drug treatment such as adjuvant approaches to insomnia and the problem of drugs and car driving. A book of this

THE AFFERENT INNERVATION OF THE HEART By A. Ya. Khabarova. Authorized translation by Basil Haigh. (Pp. 175; 87 figures. 90s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1963. The author describes anatomical investigations on 40 human hearts and 80 hearts from various animals, some of which had been subjected to nerve section of some kind one to three days before death. She gives an extensive account of her observations on the afferent innervation of the epicardium, myocardium, and endocardium. She points out that recent knowledge of reflex activity affecting the cardiovascular system has constituted a notable advance, and one of her express objects in undertaking the present study was to provide a morphological background on which further physiological advances might be based. The author herself, however, deals little with the physiological consequences of her findings. The translation is adequate but many will find the cost excessive for a book of this size.

TEXTBOOK OF PSYCHIATRY By Jack R. Ewalt and Dana L. Farnsworth. (Pp. 381. 74s.) New York, Toronto, and London: McGraw-Hill Inc. 1963. This textbook for the American medical student is, as the authors say, firmly based on psychoanalytic principles. A British psychiatrist can therefore scarcely agree that 'the student seeking a partisan position will not find it in this text', for, just as the term 'Liberal' implies very different political attitudes in different countries, so a 'middle of the road' psychiatric textbook from the United States emphasizes psychopathological mechanisms in the aetiology and treatment of mental illness to the relative neglect of constitutional and pharmacological aspects. In the field of the major psychoses patients will suffer from this neglect, but conversely those with neurotic illnesses will benefit from a more extended psychotherapy than is usually given in Britain, and this book provides a clear introduction to such psychoanalytically-based psychotherapy.
Book reviews

SCOPE MIGHT WELL BE UNREADABLE, BUT IN FACT THE PERSONAL TOUCHES AND MANNER OF WRITING MAKE IT ENJOYABLE, AS WELL AS ESSENTIAL FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES. THE TASK OF KEEPING FUTURE EDITIONS UP TO DATE WILL BE ENORMOUS, BUT IT IS TO BE HOPEFUL THAT THE AUTHOR WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO THIS CERTAIN DEMAND.


Although the large clinical and experimental literature which it has attracted, hypnosis remains a fringe subject to most practising physicians. This book will serve to introduce them to its historical background, its theoretical implications, and its application to several branches of medicine and surgery. The contributions of the 13 authors are uneven in quality but the cumulative weight of the evidence they furnish is sufficiently impressive to persuade the medical reader that whether or not he chooses to employ hypnotic techniques he cannot disregard them.


Six papers on theoretical considerations in hypnosis occupy the first 124 pages of this book: the rest, more than three-quarters, consists of reprints of 28 papers from recent numbers of accessible journals, an extravagance seldom warranted by their value.


This is a sequel to the author's earlier book on The Treatment and Prevention of Reading Problems and represents an approach to the problem of language backwardness from the standpoint of developmental neurology. Much emphasis is placed on the evolution and significance of cerebral dominance, the author being rightly critical of the assessment of dominance in terms of handedness alone. Methods of training unilateral preferences of hand, foot, and eye are described which are thought to bring about more consistent unilateral hemisphere dominance and, so it is supposed, correlated improvement in language skills. Although the reviewer has sympathy with this point of view, it cannot be said that the author has adduced any really convincing evidence in support of his claims. None the less, his approach, if developed more critically, might well contribute to our understanding of developmental language disorders and suggest profitable methods of remedial education.


Recent rapid developments in techniques for recording, analysing, and synthesizing naturally occurring sounds, including speech, and the great increase in availability of equipment for these purposes have led to renewed interest in auditory perception and communication in situations of everyday life as opposed to the laboratory experiment. In this book Dr. Ostwald shows how such techniques can be applied in the neurological and psychiatric clinic. The book includes at the outset an account of the principles, terminology, and techniques of acoustic methods which should at least relieve the anxieties of those hitherto unfamiliar with them. It then proceeds to discuss such topics as 'the baby cry', the characteristics of speech in various neurological and psychiatric disorders and changes in them during therapy, responses to baby sounds, clinical features of certain types of speechless patient, and the sounds made by disturbed cases. Much fresh ground is broken, and a case is made for further cultivation, but further careful tillage will be needed before the potentialities of these approaches can be fully appreciated.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(REVIEW IN A LATER ISSUE IS NOT PRECLUDED BY NOTICE HERE OF BOOKS RECEIVED.)


NOTICE

The 18th annual meeting of the Scandinavian Neurosurgical Society will take place in Oslo, Norway, on Friday, 11 September, and Saturday, 12 September 1964. President: Professor Kristian Kristiansen, M.D., Neurosurgical Department, Ullevål Sykehus, Oslo, Norway, from whose office particulars of participation and of hotel rooms may be obtained.