SEROLOGICAL FRACTIONS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA


The literature on substances producing pain is now very large. Dr. Keele and his colleagues have contributed much to the subject. It is therefore appropriate that he should produce this monograph. It is a comprehensive review of the peripheral chemical mechanisms in pain production, with a full and particularly useful bibliography. Some consideration is also given to the part played by peripheral nerves and their endings and the interrelations of these with chemical pain producers. Central pain and its mechanisms is not considered.

Having reviewed the experimental and pharmacological evidence in detail and with thorough critical discussion, the authors mention briefly some clinical conditions associated with pain and discuss the possible role of the factors elucidated by laboratory work. Here the authors are perhaps less critical than they might be of clinical 'facts'. Nevertheless clinicians will find these chapters of special interest. Indeed the whole volume cannot fail to be interesting and important for all those who have to deal with pain and particularly for those who try to investigate it in the clinical setting.

C. W. M. WHITTY

RECENT ADVANCES IN BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY. Vol. 5.


It is widely (and correctly) believed that psychiatry in the United States is dominated by psychoanalytical doctrine, somewhat modified by American pragmatism and the current emphasis on the use of drugs. Nevertheless, there is now much research activity which is concerned with the biological characteristic of mental abnormality, just as there is now much investigation of epidemiological and social aspects. There are two societies explicitly devoted to such studies: the Society of Biological Psychiatry and the American Society of Medical Psychiatry. At the seventeenth annual meeting of the former of these societies a number of papers, many of them embodying previously unpublished work, were read and are reproduced here. They indicate a vigorous effort at biochemical and clinical study of mental disorder and the mode of action of reserpine, mono-amine oxidase inhibitors, and psychotomimetic drugs. The majority of these studies are sober and restrained; the Academic Lecture, however, which was delivered by Professor Cazzullo of Milan, was rather sweeping in its claims.

The special subject dealt with at the meeting was anomalies of development. Here, as in the metabolic studies, animal experiments were reported, as well as laboratory and clinical observations on human beings. Many of the papers dealt with the interplay between the foetus or the neonate and its mother: there was a refreshing absence of speculation about the psychological happenings in the baby's mind. Although the findings in a