

The book is not easy to read and the presentation of results and their discussion is somewhat repetitive. The author and his co-workers have clearly carried out an immense amount of work with the aim of establishing the value of agar gel electrophoresis in clinical neurology. It is difficult, however, to assess the extent to which this aim has been achieved; the author himself, in his concluding chapter, implies that, in view of the effort involved, progress appears to be rather slight, and few definite solutions of the problems posed have been reached. Nevertheless, those interested in the possibilities of this approach to neurological problems will undoubtedly find the book a useful source of data and references.

UNDERSTANDING PARAPLEGIA By J. J. Walsh. (Pp. 164. 21s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1964.

This book opens with a lucid account of the essential anatomy and physiology of paraplegia. This has been very well done as it combines the technical explanations which make it of interest to the doctor, with translations of these into simple terms for the patient and his friends. This has been done without appearing to insult the intelligence of the former or talk down to the latter and has been achieved with an easy style of writing.

The book covers all the practical information required by those who have to care for a patient with paraplegia right from the moment of injury to their return to work. The chapter on sexual function is especially valuable as this is a subject about which there is much misunderstanding and mythology. There is also a useful list of appliance centres and other addresses and is in all an excellent production. The only criticism I would make is that it is worthy of better illustrations than it has been given. This book will be of great value to all who may have a paraplegic patient under their care.

JOHN MARSHALL

THE NEUROLOGICAL MECHANISMS OF HEARING AND SPEECH IN CHILDREN By Ian G. Taylor. (Pp. xii + 237; 15 plates. 42s.) Manchester University Press. 1964.

This book is not, as its title implies, a systematic account of neurological mechanisms. Such anatomical, physiological, and pathological material as it contains is simply there to support an account of the author's own research and therapeutic activity at the Department of Audiology and Education of the Deaf, at the University of Manchester. Therefore, the major part of the contents is concerned to describe the considerable variety of diagnostic and therapeutic methods in use at that institution. These include a number of novel approaches, such as behaviourist (*sic*) tests of hearing, and applications of electroencephalographic and galvanic skin response recording to audiometric testing. Much space is given to case reports and the book is fully illustrated with photographs of test procedures.

The work as a whole suffers from a rather sketchy and disjointed style of presentation and from some failure to provide a reasonably systematic and considered account of techniques and methods pursued, and results obtained, in centres other than the Manchester depart-

ment. As an account of the latter, however, it may be found useful and stimulating.

BEGLEITWIRKUNGEN UND MISSERFOLGE DER PSYCHIATRISCHEN PHARMAKOTHERAPIE Edited by H. Kranz and K. Heinrich. (Pp. viii + 202; 62 figures. DM.37.50.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1964.

Thirty-three psychiatrists met at Bad Kreuznach last year to discuss the side effects and the failures of drug treatment in psychiatry. As Professor Kranz explains in his introductory address, this is now as important and necessary a task as appraisal of the therapeutic value of drugs. Alteration of the conditions of a patient's mental activity, severe biochemical changes, threats to life, and tragedies like teratogenesis are possible consequences of drug treatment that call insistently for study. The contributors to this symposium do not gloss over the risks and mishaps; their honest and well-documented papers are worth dozens of articles reporting that such and such a judicious combination of drugs will do wonders. Twenty-six detailed reports and the ensuing discussions do not lend themselves to summary description, they cover a wide field, and their authors are such well-known authorities as Selbach, Hippus, and Huber. It is greatly to be regretted that this informative book has not been provided with an index.

NOTFALLTHERAPIE NEUROLOGISCHER UND PSYCHIATRISCHER ERKRANKUNGEN By G. Kienle. (Pp. 102; 2 figures, 13 tables. DM.7.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1964.

This primer sets out in very concise form the drugs to be used in various neurological and psychiatric emergencies, the appropriate dosage and the contraindications. Allowing for the bias inevitable in a field so beset with unconfirmed assertions, the recommendations do not differ appreciably from current practice in Great Britain. Occasionally, however, the reader is sharply reminded of divergencies, for example, when he reads Dr. Kienle's bald pronouncement that E.C.T. is only exceptionally necessary in the treatment of mental illness.

DAS PSYCHIATRISCHE KRANKENHAUSWESEN. ENTWICKLUNG, STAND, REICHWEITE UND ZUKUNFT. By Fr. Panse. (Pp. xii + 810; 261 figures. DM.93.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1964.

This book is beautifully produced, and faithfully describes the structure, practices, and working conditions of German mental hospitals. It also has much information about mental hospitals in other countries, but if the passages dealing with Great Britain are typical, the information is second or third hand, sometimes inexact, and partly out-of-date. The study was initiated as a report for the German Psychiatric Association on the development and needs of the psychiatric hospitals of that country, but Professor Panse found it rapidly expanding into a monograph which became this stout volume. It contains a vast amount of practical guidance and description, is enlightened in many of its suggestions, and can best be described as a thorough compendium of administrative psychiatry based on a minimum of theory and a proper concern with the importance of good planning, good care of patients, and good buildings.

LECTURE NOTES ON PSYCHIATRY By James Willis. (Pp. vii + 89; 7s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1964.

As psychiatric terminology and multiple-choice questions come to assume more prominence in the examination nightmares of our medical students a place may be created for new categorical simplifications. Such a place could be occupied by this book. It is difficult to think of it filling any other.

UBER DEN AUTISMUS By Hans Schneider. (Pp. 47. DM. 14.80.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1964.

Since Eugen Bleuler's famous study appeared more than 50 years ago the concept of autism has captured the imagination of many German-speaking speculators about the psychopathology of schizophrenia. Inevitably it has come to the attention of the modern neo-phenomenologists. This little monograph exemplifies the trend. About a quarter of the book is devoted to an historical introduction, two-thirds to three long case histories, and a two-page coda to a re-statement of postulates which will mean very little to the reader who is unfamiliar with the language of Daseinsanalyse.

PSYCHIATRIE DER VERFOLGTEN By W. Ritter von Baeyer, H. Häfner, and K. P. Kisker. (Pp. iiv + 397; 2 figures; 71 tables. DM. 78.-) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1964.

Disappointingly few contributions to the literature on the psychiatric consequences of persecution under national socialism have come from Germany. This monograph is the most impressive so far. In it Professor von Baeyer and two of his colleagues at Heidelberg present clinical and statistical information about 500 people who claimed compensation for their disabilities. The findings are extensively documented; their social as well as their medical implications are fully discussed. The facts speak clearly and hardly require the 'existentialist-anthropological' interpretations favoured by the authors. We can welcome this book and hope it will be widely read.

PROGRESS IN NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY Vol. XIX. Edited by E. A. Spiegel. (Pp. xiv + 682; \$14.75.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1964.

Year books and reviews of annual progress may be organized in two ways. A number of general review articles may be given to subjects which have shown marked activity during the year, appropriate references being given to papers but the style being essentially one of assessment and critical review. Alternatively, some reference, usually brief, may be made to small or very small subdivisions of the subject, again with appropriate references. Both methods have their advantages. This book in the main pursues the second course. It is thorough and well documented. References are plentiful. Their number in each subject gives some idea of that subject's activity. References to the pharmacology of the nervous system occupy almost three times the space of any other subject. The book will remain a necessity for any neurological library.

PSYCHODYNAMIQUE ESSENTIELLE. Normale et Pathologique By Georges Abraham. (Pp. 278. F.40.) Paris: Editions Doin. 1964.

The author draws support for his hypotheses from psychoanalysis and existential psychology. From the former he derives his emphasis on the paramount importance of the values that are impressed upon the young child; the latter is responsible for the emphasis he puts on each individual's vision of the world and his personal existence. If the reader likes reading existential philosophy he will find the argument of this book obscure but thoughtful and interesting; if not, he will find it not only obscure but also bodiless and unsatisfying.

PSYCHOTHERAPIE BEI HIRNVERSEHRTEN By Jürgen P. Reuter. (Pp. 129; 3 figures; 10 tables. DM.23.-) Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke. 1964.

There is nothing new in this laborious work. A very detailed review of the opinions of previous writers, almost entirely German, is followed by an even more detailed account of the treatment and outcome in 103 brain-damaged patients who were seen by the author and his colleagues between 1954 and 1958. Though he has a chapter specifically on the psycho-therapeutic method employed, it seems that in practice a variable mixture of methods was used, in which group discussion and relaxation played a specially large part. The results were gratifying, but there was no control series.

PSYCHIATRIE DER GEGENWART. Forschung und Praxis. Edited by H. W. Gruhle, R. Jung, W. Mayer-Gross, and M. Müller. Band I/Teil I: Grundlagenforschung zur Psychiatrie. Bandteil B. (Pp. 529; 43 figures. DM.84.-) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1964.

It is instructive to compare the space allocated to the various kinds of basic somatic research in this 'System of Psychiatry' now appearing and in the 'Handbuch' which was its last, boldly conceived predecessor. Thirty-five years ago, when the Handbuch was produced, there were in it only three relevant chapters dealing with such matters; one of 22 pages on circulatory phenomena, another of 55 pages on endocrines and metabolism, and a third of 80 pages on serology. Now the distribution and division of subjects is vastly different. Detlev Ploog's masterly chapter on the biological foundations of instinctive and affective behaviour takes up 150 pages, Waelsch and Weil-Malherbe's chapter on neurochemistry, 100 pages, Bleuler's on endocrinological psychiatry, 90 pages; the other chapters, though shorter, are solid, detailed contributions on pathological metabolism, neuroradiology, and conditioned reflexes. The last of these, by the late Professor Giljarowsky of Moscow, is disappointing in its omission of any reference to the vigorous experimental work of psychologists and physiologists like Anokhin, Luria, or Konorski. The book as a whole is clearly written and covers a very wide area. The authors of the major articles, dealing to a considerable extent with recently developed methods and controversial findings, combine sceptical and sober judgment with a firm appreciation of where real advances are taking place.

**CANINE BEHAVIOUR** By M. W. Fox. (Pp. 137; illustrated. \$6.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964. This is an entertaining and educative little book which approaches the problem of animal behaviour from an unusually rounded and common sense view. The behaviour problems of the domestic animal are obviously specialized. This book examines their basic neurophysiological and psychological background in a reasonably scientific manner, as well as the particular factors, environmental and other, which come from domestication. It will be of value to veterinary students as well as to those interested in animal behaviour and to dog owners in general.

**ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS ON THE AETIOLOGY OF MYELOPATHY** By T. Lehoczy, J. Sós, and M. Halasy. (Pp. 218; 235 illustrations. 50s.) Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó. 1964.

This book records a wealth of experimental work done by the authors at the Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, over a period of 10 years. These workers, curious about the pathogenesis of obscure human myelopathies, have subjected albino rats to a variety of toxic and metabolic processes designed to injure the spinal cord. Amongst these were resections of gastric mucosa, avitaminoses of various types, and intoxications by alcohol, carbon tetrachloride, phosphorus, triorthocresyl phosphate, and the seeds of *Lathyrus odoratus*. Diabetes was produced by alloxan and by dithizon and with thyroxin a hyperthyroid state was maintained. In all these experiments the authors claim to have caused a myelopathy attributable to the régime of their experiment. Their results were always evaluated histologically and in some cases no abnormal clinical state was apparent in the animal. The histological findings were usually a spongy degeneration of white matter often combined with neuronal degeneration. The authors have taken pains to record control observations on animals kept under parallel conditions and have also discussed the difficult problem of artefact in their microscopical preparations. Many criticisms on this score have been allayed by the profuse illustrations which, although often of poor quality, amply substantiate the authors' descriptions.

This book will be of interest mainly to experimental workers in this field of research who will appreciate the references given at the end of each chapter.

J. TREVOR HUGHES

**PROBLEMS OF PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY** Edited by L. L. Rokhlin. (Pp. 330; illustrated. 108s.) Israel Program for Scientific Translations. London: Oldbourne Press. 1965.

This book reports the results from a number of centres in the U.S.S.R. of the drug treatment of schizophrenia, affective disorders and, much more briefly, of alcoholism and behaviour disorders in children and adults. It is a useful compilation of information. Results do not greatly differ from those obtained in clinics in this country. There is a short review of the general chemical structure of the drugs used and the chemical similarities between some disparate groups is noted. There is also a useful summary of dosages, indications, complications, and

side effects of the various groups. The reproduction of figures, both pictures and E.E.G. tracings, is rather blurred. The English translation is intelligible and grammatical with occasional oddities of phrasing. References are given separately to Russian literature and to that in other languages. The book is a useful short description of the kind of psychopharmacology that is practised in the U.S.S.R.

**NEUROLOGY FOR NURSES** By E. M. Jacobs and P. M. Denault. (Pp. ix + 195; 40 figures. \$9.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

This well-illustrated and well-produced book is designed to provide nurses with a basic knowledge of neurology and instruction in the special nursing techniques required in order to understand and care for neurological patients. The description of the diseases is adequate though there are many definitions which might have been improved. Examples are clonus, which is described as a series of jerking motions, and receptive aphasia, which is termed a condition in which a patient 'can speak but in an unintelligible manner'.

The description of the nursing procedures is not sufficiently detailed to be an adequate guide and would require to be supplemented by a great deal of personal instruction. Significant omissions occur, as in the failure to stress the importance of the nurse noting the site of initial disturbance when observing a fit. Overall, the book cannot be considered as an outstanding example of this type of work.

**STRONG AND ELWYN'S HUMAN NEUROANATOMY**, 5th ed. Edited by R. C. Truex and M. B. Carpenter. (Pp. xv + 591; illustrated. 106s.) Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company. 1964.

This is an excellent textbook. The new edition differs from the last mainly in the illustrations, many of which are extremely helpful in conveying three-dimensional images. The chapter on embryology has been rewritten. Much recent material has been added, and stress is laid on physiological correlations. Some discredited myths remain in print. It is easier, it seems, to acquire new furniture than to turn out the lumber-room.

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

##### EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF NEUROSURGERY

The third European Congress of Neurosurgery will take place in Madrid from 23 to 26 April, 1967. It has been organized by the Belgian, Dutch, and Portuguese-Spanish Societies of Neurosurgery and will chiefly be concerned with disorders of the cerebral circulation. Further information from the President, Dr. S. Obrador. Eduardo Dato 23, Madrid 10.

##### SPANISH-PORTUGUESE SOCIETY OF NEUROSURGERY

The XVIII Meeting of the Spanish-Portuguese Society of Neurosurgery will take place in Salamanca from 20 to 22 May 1966. Foreign guests are welcome. For information write to the Secretary, Dr. S. Obrador, Eduardo Dato 23, Madrid 10, Spain.