

literary talents, and his ability to bring his book to life. He searches for signs of originality and philosophy of outlook and for those expressions of opinion and experience that bear witness to the personality of the author. He usually looks in vain and this is surely because the schematization, so traditional and seemingly unavoidable, effectively masks the man who wielded the pen. The neurologist who begins his examination with the olfactory nerve and like 'an engine that moves in pre-destinate grooves', to quote Ronald Knox, labours away until he arrives at the anal reflex, could, one supposes, write a good textbook, but he is much more likely to leave some wonderful notes.

The author of this new textbook is Professor of Neurology in the State University of New York at Buffalo. On page 20 he says 'a routine neurological examination in a cooperative and intelligent patient can be completed in a matter of minutes', something which badly needed saying and which I cannot recall having read in any other textbook of neurology. I warned to my task.

His book is primarily for students and although the presentation is quite orthodox he has achieved his aim of not just writing 'a synopsis of disease'. (How many times has one read of the 'catalogue raisonné' in prefaces and reviews since it first appeared in the preface to Sir Francis Walshe's 'Diseases of the nervous system' 25 years ago?) Certainly he has been successful in combining adequate and readable clinical descriptions of the commoner major and minor neurological disorders with the necessary background of anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry. The book is well planned and there are useful selected bibliographies at the end of each chapter.

There are no clinical photographs but the standard neuroradiological illustrations are there and they are satisfactorily reproduced and clearly labelled. The anatomical line drawings could be bolder and the short section on electromyography would be better for a few illustrations as in the section on electroencephalography. Figure 47 (p. 391), depicting the blood supply of the brain, is a much better illustration than is commonly employed in texts of this nature. The weakest chapter is the last, on neuropsychiatry. It is an important one and could be sharpened up without much trouble.

Has Professor Smith even seen a case of lumbar syringomyelia? And should he still talk of Gradenigo's syndrome (pp. 181 and 427) after vowing in the preface 'to practice moderation in the use of eponyms'? Neither Argyll-Robertson nor Adie will ever see in the section on the myotonic pupil (p. 192) that offensive neologism 'the pseudo Argyll-Robertson pupil', but Sir Gordon Holmes might and he would not like it at all. In giving examples of organic neurological disorders which may be mistaken for psychogenic illness surely the Guillain-Barré syndrome and subarachnoid haemorrhage are unusual?

A reviewer of a student's textbook (and he should more often be a student) acts as a sort of consumers' guide. In this instance the appropriate designation would be that it was a good 'buy'—soundly constructed, reliable, and likely to sell well.

J. SPILLANE

SUBCORTICAL MECHANISMS OF BEHAVIOUR By R. A. McCleary and R. Y. Moore. (Pp. x + 148; illustrated. 18s.) London: Basic Books. 1965.

This small book gives a clear and simple presentation of current physiological concepts of the activities of the reticular formation, the hypothalamus, and the rhinencephalon. It will be specially helpful to senior students of psychology.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

BIOCHEMICAL ASPECTS OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS 2nd series, edited by J. N. Cumings and M. Kremer. (Pp. ix + 326; illustrated. 55s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965.

This book comprises the second series of lectures on the Biochemical aspects of Neurological Disorders given at the Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital, Queen Square, in 1964. Following the same pattern as the original series each topic is dealt with first from the clinical standpoint after which biochemical aspects are discussed. The 18 lectures in the present volume include, for the most part, subjects other than those of the earlier ones.

The first lecture deals with the clinical aspects of muscular dystrophy and is followed by an excellent review of present biochemical knowledge in this field. Myasthenia gravis is similarly considered in two lectures. In chapters on neuropathies the toxic effects of a variety of substances constituting industrial or therapeutic hazards, such as organophosphorus compounds, thalidomide, tetraethyl lead, and methanol are discussed, and a further two contributions deal with diabetic neuropathy. Other lectures are concerned with hypoglycaemia, the clinical and biochemical aspects of head injuries and demyelinating diseases: depressive states and genetic mental disorders are each the subject of two contributors.

Each chapter includes a useful and up-to-date bibliography and there is an excellent index.

These lectures by clinicians and scientists, who are recognized authorities in their respective fields, make a most stimulating, informative and readable book, which supplements and amply maintains the high standards set by the first volume of the series.

G. R. WEBSTER

BIOCHEMICAL APPROACHES TO MENTAL HANDICAP IN CHILDREN Edited by J. D. Allan and K. S. Holt. (Pp. 84 + vii, 15s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1965.

This book contains the contribution to a symposium of the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism, held at Liverpool in September 1964. The contents indicate clearly the impressive advances made in recent years in knowledge of the biochemical aspects of mental defect. Studies are described on conditions such as phenylketonuria and the aminoacidurias in which an isolated enzymatic defect is present; the problems of dietary treatment of these rare biochemical disorders of mental handicap are also discussed. Other contributions