

techniques. Neurologists may be particularly interested in the account of over 10,000 cases of spinal anaesthesia without any major neurological sequela being discovered, and in the plea from the same series of cases for a good technique of lumbar puncture to reduce the incidence of post-spinal anaesthetic headache.

J. M. K. SPALDING

A TEXTBOOK OF PSYCHOLOGY, By Donald Olding Hebb (Pp. xvi + 353; 102 figures, 40s.). Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1966.

Professor Hebb's theoretical contribution to psychology has long been appreciated but his gifts as a teacher are perhaps not so well known in Britain. This revised edition of his textbook, however, shows the care which he has devoted to the provision of a thorough grounding in physiological psychology.

It contains a brief description of the structure and function of the central nervous system, an excellent review of learning theory, and interesting data on motivation: the chapters on intelligence and emotion are less comprehensive. The range of discussion is wide, including an account of the refractory period of the neurone on the one hand and comments on altruism in the chimpanzee and in man on the other. Hebb does not omit data (*e.g.*, the fading phenomenon observed with solid figures) which cannot be explained by his own ingenious cell-assembly hypothesis, and, by his meticulous exposition of this and other topics, trains the reader in the use of the experimental method.

The student is explicitly helped to assimilate the main points in each chapter by a brief review and a few carefully-chosen references. The deceptive simplicity of the prose stems from the clarity of the thinking. The book, therefore, is an invaluable guide not only for students of psychology but also for medical practitioners and for specialists in related fields. It clears away many of the vague, philosophical generalisations that have for so long obscured the subject and gives it at once a more limited and a more exacting definition within the framework of the sciences.

FREDA NEWCOMBE

A MANUAL OF LABORATORY STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY By B. Heckman and R. Fried. (Pp. xiii + 207. 20s.) New York: Oxford University Press. 1965.

Thirty laboratory experiments in psychology, using students, rats, and children as subjects, requiring the minimum of equipment, and illustrating problems of learning, motivation, perception, personality, and maturation, are set out with full instructions and comments. Most laboratory courses have evolved over the years, and reflect the preferences and established habits of the organizer: those who have to introduce such a course should examine this book closely, for it is excellent in providing interest, instruction, and theoretical background.

R. T. C. PRATT

TRANSFORMATIONS Change from Learning to Growth By W. R. Bion. (Pp. 183. 25s.) London: William Heinemann. 1965.

This individual consideration of the processes involved in

psycho-analysis will be of great interest to those concerned with the nature and theory of the treatment: but it is not easy reading.

ADMINISTRATIVE THERAPY: THE ROLE OF THE DOCTOR IN THE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY By D. H. Clark. (Pp. xi + 160. 25s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1964. We are witnessing at the present time another of the periodic revolutions in attitude towards the chronic psychiatric patient. The authoritarian mental hospital produced in its inmates a reaction to its social structure that rendered them unfit to resume their place in the outside world. Administrative therapy aims to use our increasing knowledge of social science to provide a social structure that will enable patients to re-acquire the social skills of the outside world.

Dr. D. H. Clark's book is based on his own pioneering experiences at Fulbourn Hospital, and was written in a reflective year when a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioural Sciences at Stanford, California. It is a most excellent account of the philosophy and practice of administrative therapy, clearly written, illuminated by instances of difficulties encountered and overcome, enthusiastic, yet humble, and full of mature wisdom.

R. T. C. PRATT

MENTAL DEFICIENCY, 2nd ed. By L. T. Hilliard and B. H. Kirman. (Pp. viii + 714; 120 figures. 100s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1965.

The Mental Health Act (1959) has intervened between the first (1957) and second editions of this book: the consequent changes are, however, confined to matters of detail rather than outlook, since the work of the authors from the late Fountain Hospital determined in no small part the changes for mental deficiency enshrined in the Act. The whole field of mental deficiency is covered, including the pathological aspects (Crome), the increasing number of metabolic syndromes, and the problems of the adolescent and adult defective. The social aspects are considered by contributors who have themselves made great advances in the field, for example, education and training (Norris), employment (O'Connor), and psychological aspects (Tizard). Equal attention is paid to theoretical contributions, and to practical advice ('It is never justifiable to hurry when feeding a patient who has difficulty in swallowing'). This wide approach that has revolutionized the care of mental defectives is now described and documented in this excellent book, and the philosophy and practice of the authors again made available to wider audiences.

R. T. C. PRATT

SLOW, LATENT, AND TEMPERATE VIRUS INFECTIONS. NINDB MONOGRAPH No. 2. Edited by D. Carleton Gajdusek, Clarence J. Gibbs, Jr., and Michael Alpers. (Pp. 489; illustrated. \$6.75) U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (Public Health Service). 1965.

When in March, 1954, the late Dr. Björn Sigurdsson