

The book is by acknowledged experts and its appeal will be confined mainly to fellow experts.

JOHN MARSHALL

CATECHOLAMINES By R. J. Wurtman. (Pp. x + 111; 16 figures. 50s.) J. and A. Churchill Ltd: London. 1966.

To the reviewer, a clinician who struggles to understand the subject, this volume is a model of clarity and helpfulness. The author has outlined the information now available with great precision and indicates which are the questions which can not yet be answered.

IMMUNOBIOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION Vol. 1. International Symposium on Rabies. Edited by R. H. Regamey, H. Hennessen, D. Ikić and J. Ungar (Pp. xii + 451; 81 figures; 140 tables. DM 82.50.) Karger: New York and Basel. 1966.

This volume contains the Proceedings of the 12th International Symposium organized by the Permanent Section of Microbiological Standardization held in Talloires (France) in May 1965.

SABINA J. STRICH

DRUG THERAPY FOR EPILEPSY By S. Livingston. (Pp. xiii + 234. \$9.50.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1966.

This book reviews the majority of drugs currently used in the treatment of epilepsy and mentions their dosage and the type of epilepsy for which they are most used. It deals briefly with side-effects and their management. It also mentions the conditions and their treatment which may cause hypoglycaemia, since this is itself a common precipitant of convulsions. The book is comprehensive rather than critical. It is however a compendious source of reference to anti-convulsant drugs, well known and less well known. For this reason and because of its abundant list of further references it will be a valuable book for those who have to deal extensively with the treatment of epilepsy.

HUMAN GENETIK Vol. 5, part 2. Edited by P. E. Becker. (Pp. xvi + 613; 105 figures; 60 tables. DM 190.) Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1967.

This is the seventh and final volume of a five-volume German *Handbuch* of human genetics, and it possesses other features traditionally associated with such publications—a magnificent bibliography, total comprehensiveness, a thorough and up-to-date review of published work from all countries, a balanced and critical summary of the genetic evidence for each disorder, and fine production. The contributions by Zerbin-Rüdin on schizophrenia, manic-depressive illness, the dementias, and mental deficiency are especially remarkable for the skill with which various investigations of differing quality and scope are assessed, and for the clarity with which a unified picture is finally presented. Other chapters deal equally fully with metabolic disorders associated with mental deficiency (Bickel and Cleve),

autosomal chromosomal abnormalities (Lenz), epilepsy and migraine (Koch), and the neuroses (Strömgren). This volume is an essential requirement for every psychiatric department.

VECTORIASIS PRAECOX OR THE GROUP OF SCHIZOPHRENIA By B. B. Wolman. (Pp. xi + 371. \$12.50.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1966.

This book summarizes the author's many years' study of the family dynamics in schizophrenia. Vectorialism giving away without asking anything in return. The abnormality in schizophrenia (leading to the author's new term for the disorder) consists of being forced to give before one is ready to give, by reason of the parents' faulty attitudes. The flavour of the book can best be indicated by a quotation: 'Since schizophrenia is, as I believe, a product of faulty family relations that lead to precocious hypervectorialism and impoverishment of the self-directed libido, the essence of therapy for schizophrenia and related disorders must be the reversal of interindividual catexes and the establishment of a balance of intraindividual catexes. More specifically, the reduction of libido investments in others and reinvestment of libido in oneself is the primary objective of therapy, and a prerequisite for any future adjustment.'

DIE MERKMALE SCHIZOPHRENER BILDNERIE By Helmut Rennert. (Pp. xi + 164; 62 figures. 53s.) Fischer: Jena. 1966.

There has been a proliferation of ill-defined books and articles on the artistic productions of the mentally ill, in which the obvious attraction of the subject seemed to be correlated with a trend towards disjointed symbolism and undisciplined enthusiasm. Professor Rennert's book, though not without its quota of enthusiasm, is an orderly attempt to review the literature, and establish the typical characteristics of form and content which are found in the productions of schizophrenics. He has succeeded in these major aims, and has provided an illuminating, if still inevitably incomplete, survey of the similarities and differences between some forms of modern art and the art of schizophrenics. In schizophrenic art the formal characteristics listed by Professor Rennert are regression, distortion, condensation, transformation, stereotypy, woodenness, and disintegration—the anomalies of content are abstract shapes—for example, geometrical figures—and representational forms—for example, compositions reminiscent of byzantine art or stained glass. Sixty-one reproductions illustrate the text. The monograph is a worthy addition to the literature that was begun and stimulated by Prinzhorn's *Bildnerie der Geisteskranken*.

THE BIOLOGIC BASIS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA By Jon L. Karlsson. (Pp. 87 + xi. \$4.75.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1966.

A large part of this monograph consists of a critical review of the relevant literature. In his own investigation the author has taken two groups—families in which one parent of a schizophrenic patient had had a mental illness, and families in which a schizophrenic patient