

work of reference. The physiologist and the student of perception must look on hallucinations as being due to uncontrolled activity of the mechanisms which analyse information arriving from the great afferent systems, especially vision. The effects may be merely to alter thresholds or to change dimensions, but in addition crude patterns of vivid colours probably represent activity at a somewhat simple visual level, while complex visual images seem to represent a distorted activity of visual memory. It is of special interest to note the extent to which these experiences are subsequently remembered, and the temporary change in thought clarity which may follow their use. The use of hallucinogens in treating mental disease is discussed, and this seems to be so powerful at times as to suggest that physiological anomalies are being broken up with benefit.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

HEADACHES IN CHILDREN Edited by A. P. Friedman and E. Harms. (Pp. vii + 145; 4 figures. \$8.75.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1967.

Segregation of headaches in adults and children is convenient though artificial. The basic mechanisms are similar, but the precipitating factors and the associated clinical syndromes justify separate consideration as part of paediatric experience. This book is more heavily weighted towards psychological mechanisms and interpretations of children's headaches than is usual in Great Britain. Despite this psychological bias, it is interesting that depression—a common cause of headaches in children as in adults—does not occur in the index, and is not explicitly mentioned much in the text, though implied of course in discussions on psychodynamics. The book could be a useful reminder to the experienced paediatrician of the vagaries of psychogenic headaches. It would, however, give a very biased introduction to the beginner in children's diseases. The title is perhaps misleading, since contributors tend to exclude the common acute headache syndromes and in general curtail consideration of organic causes.

C. W. M. WHITTY

AMNESIA Edited by C. W. M. Whitty and O. L. Zangwill. (Pp. x + 218. 64s.) Butterworth: London. 1967.

Reviewers are often moved to say, of books with multiple authorship, that they are uneven and disjointed. The present work is not open to such a criticism. The editors have assembled a group of expert contributors and, as they put it in their Preface, 'while no attempt has been made to constrain the contributors in any way, it must be said that a distinctive point of view quite certainly emerges'. They have all, with perhaps one exception, viewed memory as a complex biological capacity ultimately explicable in terms of the structure and function of the central nervous system. Consequently, the disturbances of memory associated with neurological lesions receive the chief attention. The opening chapter by Professor Weiskrantz is a particularly authoritative survey of experimental studies of amnesia; the closing chapter, by Professor Gibbens and Mr. Hall Williams,

examines the legal issues that centre on impaired memory; and in between them are informative studies of the syndromes brought about by trauma and disease.

SLEEP: ITS NATURE AND PHYSIOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION By W. P. Koella. (Pp. xiv + 199; 39 figures. \$10.00.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1967.

Dr. Koella has worked on the physiology of sleep and kindred subjects for over 12 years now. He presents in this volume both a review of others' work on the subject and a conspectus of his own views based on his research and thought.

The book is a good introduction to some of the recent work on the anatomical and physiological background of sleep and waking. New factors in chemical aspects of sleep induction are discussed. The concept of sleep as an active process actively maintained is put forward, and the many aspects of sleep of which we are still ignorant are emphasized.

There have recently been a number of publications on this subject. This book does not break much new ground but, as the work of one man, it has a coherent approach which is often missing from otherwise informative symposia. There is a good bibliography. The price of 10 dollars is large, especially since devaluation.

C. W. M. WHITTY

THE UNQUIET MIND By W. Sargant. (Pp. xvi + 240. 30s.) Heinemann: London. 1967.

Like many another autobiographer Dr. Sargant presents himself as the untiring hero of an epic struggle against inertia and conservatism. His account of the progress of psychiatry during the last 30 years—the main purpose of the book—has such a strong personal slant that the emerging picture is notably biased and the language somewhat emotive. He explains in his foreword that he felt he should write the book 'while my own often unquiet mind was still working at full speed'.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA (a symposium). Edited by A. Coppen and A. Walk. (Pp. 158. 25s.) Headley Bros: London. 1967.

This small volume is based on a series of lectures organized by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and delivered early in 1966. There are contributions by ten authors, covering recent research in epidemiology, genetics, biochemistry, and cognitive function in schizophrenia. There are chapters on classification, family studies, social and physical treatments, prognosis, and finally a review of psychotic disorders in early childhood.

The book thus provides a fairly comprehensive survey of our present knowledge of schizophrenia, and even more valuably it delineates areas of continuing ignorance. It can be highly recommended to all who are interested in this fascinating condition, and must be obligatory reading for D.P.M. candidates.

K. L. TRICK

THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY By F. Alexander and S. Selesnick. (Pp. xvi + 471; illustrated. 63s.) Allen and Unwin: London. 1967.

The authors of this volume have attempted to survey the