components of speech disorders. They also present some neatly designed experiments on memory disturbance in aphasia and summarize much of the relevant work in the field of speech disturbance. This is at the same time a most useful reference book and also a source of creative speculation for both clinical and research workers.

FREDA NEWCOME

SENSORINEURAL HEARING PROCESSES AND DISORDERS

Proceedings of the 16th Henry Ford Hospital International Symposium held in Detroit, Michigan, March 25, 26, and 27, 1965. Edited by A. B. Graham. (Pp. xvi + 543; illustrated. \$19.00) J. & A. Churchill Ltd: London. 1967.

The subject matter of this symposium covers virtually every aspect of the discipline of audiology as currently practised. Sixty-one specialists contributed 37 papers nicely organized under five general headings. So diverse and rich is the material, that the talents of Hallowell Davis, Raymond Carhart, and Harold Schucknecht were well-used for the three formal summaries which appear at the end. Would-be editors of proceedings such as these stand to learn much from the splendid job performed by A. Bruce Graham of the Henry Ford Hospital.

The most refreshing thing about this volume is the brevity (and in most instances the clarity) with which each topic is handled. Many of the contributors had gone on record with similar material before the date of this conference; no matter, there is here the novelty of concise presentation to be enjoyed. In like manner, the open discussion which follow upon every few papers of closely related content are kept short and usually to important points. Any member of the medical or related professions could find occasion to refer to this book and such reference would certainly prove worthwhile. Unless such occasions were to arise frequently, however, the cost of the volume and its status as a speciality item make it difficult to recommend for general personal acquisition. It is good, nonetheless, to know of its existence.

JAMES H. DEWSON

INTERDISCIPLINARY TOPICS IN GERONTOLOGY Vol. I.

Psychological Functioning in the Normal Aging and Senile Aged. Edited by Sheila S. Chown and K. F. Riegel. (Pp. x + 153; illustrated. 63s.) S. Karger: Basel, London and New York. 1968.

This volume contains papers and discussions from a colloquium held in Austria in June 1966. Investigations into learning functions at various ages are reported, using psychological tests such as verbal paired-associates, dichotic listening, memory for designs, perceptual mazes, and digit-substitution. The results are of interest, but of greater interest is the use of a variety of tests that were introduced for the investigation of learning in normal subjects, and which are now being extended to patients with intellectual changes from old age or from cerebral lesions. The increasing refinement of learning tests as exemplified in this volume should lead to considerable advances in our understanding of memory impairment in patients with cerebral disease.

THE CAUSES OF BLINDNESS IN CHILDHOOD By G. R. Fraser and A. I. Friedmann. (Pp. xvii + 245. \$12.00.) Johns Hopkins: Baltimore. 1967.

This volume records the results of an investigation carried out in 1963 of 776 children registered as blind or partially sighted in England and Wales. This amounts to almost one-quarter of the total number of blind children on the Register, and the size of the group, together with the extensive social, medical, and family information obtained, in addition to the ophthalmological examination itself, makes this investigation a unique and most valuable landmark in the study of the aetiology of childhood blindness. The various clinical subdivisions—for example, choroido-retinal degenerations, optic atrophy, retinoblastoma—are considered in separate chapters, and the parts played in each by genetic and environmental causes operating in pre-, peri-, and post-natal life, are separately assessed. The full data are clearly set out in a number of appendices. A careful analysis of the data is also presented; it is remarkable how far an accurate classification can now be reached, even with the current paucity of knowledge about the underlying biochemical lesions in most genetically-determined disorders affecting the eye. The conclusions of this survey are too numerous to list in a review; one finding, indicative of the great heterogeneity in causes of blindness, is that there are more than 50 independent single-gene abnormalities involved.

This book, with its clear and accurate record of the children studied, and its valuable consideration of the scattered literature on the subject, will be essential for many years for all those, including the neurologist, who are concerned with work on the problem of childhood blindness. It can be warmly recommended.

ELEMENTS OF MEDICAL GENETICS By A. E. H. Emery. (Pp. ix + 247; 44 figures, 11 tables. 35s.) E. & S. Livingstone: Edinburgh and London. 1968.

This book is designed as an introduction to human genetics for students of medicine and biological sciences. A historical introduction is followed by sections on the chemical basis of inheritance, chromosomes, developmental genetics, single-gene disorders, genetic factors in common disorders, pharmacogenetics, population genetics, radiation, and genetic counselling. The information is accurate and attractively presented. Professor Emery has provided an admirable introduction to human genetics. Most important of all, it holds the reader's interest, and should do much to attract the attention of the student to genetics in a formative stage of his training.

EARLY EXPERIENCE AND BEHAVIOR Edited by G. Newton and S. Levine. (Pp. xii + 785; 30 figures, 25 tables. \$28.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1968.

In their preface to this book the editors define its purpose as '... a discussion of research carried out to determine the relationships between specific independent and dependent variables in the general area now widely known as *early experience*, a term spotlighting the role of nurture in shaping the infant's future response characteristics'. The 18 chapters—all but two by