

may be disappointed to find that research in this field is not apparently being directed much towards the study of aetiology and prevention, but simply to the analysis of the established disease.

RECENT ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY AND NEUROPSYCHIATRY 8th edn. Edited by the late Lord Brain and Marcia Wilkinson. (Pp. viii + 252; illustrated. 60s.) Churchill: London. 1969.

The appearance of the 8th edition of this regular series is a reminder of the debt all readers owe to the late Lord Brain. The book has been seen through the press by his son and by Dr. Marcia Wilkinson, and has valuable chapters by invited contributors, but it contains some of Lord Brain's last writings on disorders of memory, otoneurology, disorders of cerebral circulation, and the carcinomatous neuromyopathies. It forms a welcome statement of some of the advances made since the last edition in 1962, but one is surprised to find only passing reference to low pressure hydrocephalus, no information on sub-acute panencephalitis or infection with slow viruses, and no recognition of the considerable advances made in the field of peripheral neuropathy. Carbamazepine, l-dopa, and the wide range of neurotropic drugs have never been discussed in this series. All neurologists, will, nevertheless, want to have this useful volume, but perhaps the time has come to give psychiatry its own volume in the series.

J. A. SIMPSON

THERAPIE DER NERVENKRANKHEITEN (TREATMENT OF NERVOUS DISORDERS). Edited by K. Hartmann-v. Monakow. (Pp. xiv + 778; illustrated. 370s.) Karger: Basle (Academic Press: London). 1969. (*In English and German.*)

This ambitious volume includes pages from nearly 50 contributors, but most of these consist merely of a collection of reported methods with little of the critical assessment one expects of an expert.

SOCIETY WITHOUT THE FATHER By Alexander Mitscherlich. Translated by Eric Masbacher. (Pp. xii + 329. 60s.) Tavistock Publications: London. 1969.

It would be foolish to look for the clarity of Hobhouse or Trotter in any contemporary discussion of some major problem of social psychology. It is, however, legitimate to wish that Professor Mitscherlich had disciplined the exposition of his interesting theme so that it was more taut and succinct. He is an experienced psycho-analyst, and brings the Freudian interpretative apparatus to bear on the behaviour of the German people. He discusses other modern societies, but his thoughtful analysis rests primarily on his knowledge of his compatriots, especially those whom he has treated psycho-analytically. His whipping boy is industrial mass society, in which he considers the father's world is separated from the child's, to the detriment of both. Mass society creates a multitude of 'rival siblings' enviously struggling against their neighbours, in barren competition. In contrast to the members of a paternalistic society, they are 'fatherless'. The structure of family authority is upset, and the individual 'grows up into an adult with no visible master,

exercises anonymous functions, and is guided by anonymous functions'. Professor Mitscherlich points out that obedience has always played a prominent part in the formation of the German national character; at times, he says, this has clashed with an unrealistic attitude of demand. He regards the problem as one of cultural adaptation, and concludes that 'society counts too easily on the domestication of man'.

AUBREY LEWIS

MODERN PROBLEMS IN PHARMACOPSYCHIATRY Vol. 2: THE THIOXANTHENES Edited by H. E. Lehmann. (Pp. x + 116; 27 figures, 12 tables. 52s.) Karger: Basle and New York. 1969.

This volume contains the proceedings of a symposium organized by the Quebec Psychopharmacological Research Association in June 1967. The passage of 18 months before their publication in book form has robbed the papers of what slender value most of them possessed. Another unnecessary and expensive volume.

PRACTICAL TREATMENT IN PSYCHIATRY Edited by J. L. Crammer. (Pp. xii + 162; illustrated. 25s.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1969.

This volume contains lectures given at an Oxford Region postgraduate training course—on addiction (Willis), alcoholism (Edwards), behaviour therapy (Gelder), anxiety (Soddy), treatment of depression (Watt), biochemical aspects of depression (Shaw), treatment of schizophrenia (Letemendia), treatment of epilepsy (Taylor), drug metabolism (Parke), and clinical trials (Shepherd). All are lively, practical, and up to date, and the last three have an extra individuality that distinguishes them.

SUBNORMAL MIND By A. K. Deb. (Pp. vi + 73; 18 figures, 8 tables. Rs. 4.00.) Chuckervetty, Chatterjee & Co: Calcutta. 1968.

This brief account of mental subnormality is designed for doctors, medical students, teachers, and parents. The medical aspects are accurately presented, a wide range of conditions being covered in summary form. For a book of this size and purpose the amount of space devoted to rarities is excessive, and no loss would be occasioned by their omission. The chapter on treatment, training, and management could well be greatly expanded in the next edition, since these aspects are of the greatest practical importance both in developed and developing countries.

R. T. C. PRATT

DIE SOMATISCHE THERAPIE DER SCHIZOPHRENIE By Jules Angst. (Pp. xi + 169. DM 38.) Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1969.

About one half of this thorough-going review of the somatic treatments of schizophrenia is devoted to a bibliography of more than 3,000 references. A further 12 pages is taken up by a subject-index and a list of drugs and their proprietary names. The remaining text provides a comprehensive but insipid commentary which is more likely to be consulted than read by workers in this large area of therapy and research.