CONTRIBUTO ALLA CONOSCENZA DELLA RACHI-E CRANIOSCHISI By Giuseppe Marandola. (Pp. 286; illustrated; Lire 10,000.) Il Pensiero Scientifico, Editore: Rome. 1968.

The first part of the book reviews the literature on spinal and cranial meningocoeles and related syndromes. The author then reviews his 252 cases, covering anatomy, clinical syndromes, and surgical treatment. He considers that there is a generalized skeletal abnormality, but few would accept that the evidence presented is abnormal. Unfortunately, the reproduction of radiographs leaves much to be desired.

J. A. SIMPSON

SPEECH DELAY Its Treatment by Speech Play By Michael Craft. (Pp. vii + 102; 14s.) John Wright: Bristol. 1969.

This book is written for the parents of children with delayed or disordered speech development. The author's personal and professional experience has enabled him to discuss these problems in a sympathetic yet unemotional way. He emphasizes that this guide should be used in conjunction with professional advice; at the same time he indicates those situations where formal therapy would have no place.

It is a book which can be recommended with confidence.

IVAN T. DRAPER

PAIN AND THE NEUROSURGEON A Forty-Year Experience By James C. White and William H. Sweet. (Pp. xxi + 1000; illustrated; \$37.00). Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1969.

An earlier book on the management of pain by the same authors is now a medical classic. This new work is based on it, but includes new material on the physiological basis on pain sensation and on stereotaxic surgery. It is a difficult book to read and to review critically, as it is based on the results of a large personal series of cases and a review of the literature on neurosurgical methods of relieving pain. Much of the experience reported is anecdotal. Doubtless many of the conditions treated are rare; nonetheless it is surely time that the principles of the controlled clinical trial were adopted in surgical practice. Opinions expressed in the previous monograph are modified or completely reversed on the basis of one or two cases. Until less subjective assessment is available, all will welcome the opportunity to consult the views of two very experienced surgeons when faced with a case of persistent severe pain.

J. A. SIMPSON

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF THE PSYCHOSES By Thomas Freeman. (Pp. vii + 8 figures; 45s.) Tavistock Publications: London. 1969.

The major aim of this volume is 'to review the various phenomena that occur in psychoses and to present a means of ordering these manifestations'. Dr. Freeman depends largely on his own clinical observations for

description, and claims to draw on the writings of both Hughlings Jackson and Freud for interpretation. As his dominantly psychoanalytical view of psychopathology is unlikely to convert the uncommitted, the general reader will probably find the descriptive sections of the book more substantial than the interpretative.

MICHAEL SHEPHERD

SCHIZOPHRENIE UND ZYKLOTHYMIE, Ergebnisse und Probleme. By G. Huber. (Pp. vii + 204; DM48.) Thieme: Stuttgart, 1969.

These 22 essays have been contributed in honour of Professor Weitbrecht of Bonn; they deal with various aspects of the 'endogenous psychoses', with which he has been specially concerned. The title of the book and the avowed intentions of its sponsors lead the reader to expect a thorough survey of the current state of knowledge in this wide area. This is hardly what he gets. The majority of the contributors discuss theoretical issues: they discuss them, it is true, with subtlety and penetration, but the factual ballast is in short supply. It is paradoxical, that at a time when world medical bodies flourish and international congresses multiply, a survey like this shows very little awareness of what is going on in the non-German speaking countries: the bibliographies appended to each article make it abundantly clear that national and linguistic boundaries have not been broken down in spite of easier contacts and more extensive globe-trotting. English speaking psychiatrists are as insular in this regard as any; it is therefore informative for us to discover from a comprehensive book like this how the subject is being studied in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

The first group of papers deals with causation and taxonomy. Disorders of childhood and the involutional period lead on to studies of symptomatology and differential diagnosis, with special reference to atypical forms. The final papers consider experimental psychoses, analogies between schizophrenic and organic syndromes, disturbances of coenaesthesia, and suicide.

MANUEL DE GERONTO-PSYCHIATRIE By Christian Müller avec la collaboration de L. Ciompi, A. Delachaux, Th. Rabinowicz, J.-L. Villa. (Pp. 276; 33 figures; 5 tables; 65F.) Masson: Paris. 1969.

Professor Müller comments ruefully on the enormous literature of the subject—his collaborator Dr. Ciompi has compiled a card index with more than 6,000 items—and warns us that the material presented in the book is necessarily drawn only from what seem the most important sources. Far from alarming the reader, this reassures him regarding the readability of the work, which turns out to be both comprehensive and shrewdly selective. The present version is a translation of the German edition which appeared in 1967.

The clinical section deals in turn with details of psychogenic disturbances, suicide, endogenous psychoses, and organic psychoses in the elderly. Institutional care is appraised with special reference to the Lausanne arrangements, and medico-legal aspects are informatively reviewed. A brief statement about therapeutics concludes the book.

Professor Müller has produced an admirable treatise,