interests lie in the affections of the nervous system by chemical changes in the patient's blood.

J. SCHORSTEIN

BRITISH MEDICAL BULLETIN, September 1969 (Volume 25, Number 3) 'Mechanisms of Toxicity'. (Pp. ix + 312; illustrated; £2.) Medical Department, British Council: London. 1969.

We are all in debt to the British Council for publishing so many authoritative reviews. Unfortunately, condensation often makes for turgid reading, but for anyone requiring a rapid survey with key references to a scientific topic on the fringe of everyday medicine they are quite invaluable. This volume is in the usual format. The opening paper by Sir Rudolph Peters reviews the historical development of his concept of the biochemical lesion. The other 15 papers cover a wide field on the reaction between poisons and the cells and the organs of the intact animal. Of particular interest to the experimental neurologists are papers on the neurotoxic action of organophosphorus and organomercury compounds, isoniazid and other substances; psychotomimetics; and on body temperature and its responses to drugs. A particularly valuable survey of the mechanism of saxitoxin and tetrodotoxin is welcome, as these substances are likely to be used increasingly in the study of synaptic transmission. Dr. J. M. Barnes was chairman and Dr. W. N. Aldridge was scientific editor of the planning committee.

J. A. SIMPSON

SCHLAFSTÖRUNGEN: URSACHEN UND BEHANDLUNG By J. Finke and W. Schulte. (Pp. 113, DM 7.40.) George Thieme: Stuttgart. 1970.

This is an excellent little book, packed with information. Sleep is one of the fields of physiology in which there has been much progress since the war. Indeed, the investigation of sleep may be considered as the greatest achievement of electroencephalography. The disorders of sleep are divided here into functional disorders, those due to organic conditions, and those associated with psychoses. The book includes sections on somnambulism, sleep paralysis, Kleine-Levin syndrome, narcolepsy, and disturbances of sleep associated with Parkinsonism and general paralysis of the insane.

P. W. NATHAN

OPERATIVE ORTHOPAEDICS IN CEREBRAL PALSY By Sidney Keats. (Pp. xix + 243; illus.). Charles C. Thomas: Springfield. 1970.

Dr. Keats founded his clinic in New Jersey in 1948. His book records his experience over 21 years of active orthopaedics aimed at improving the disability of the cerebral palsied child. The book is mainly concerned with extremities, but includes chapters on the surgery of the central nervous system and on stereotactic surgery.

This book is very valuable to practising orthopaedic surgeons, because it describes all that has been recommended, as well as the procedures that the author has found most useful. The literature has been studied carefully and many of the classical papers on the subject are

quoted extensively. The references are excellent. There are only five figures, all of which are in the section on stereotactic surgery technique. These figures are poor and the first two, taken from other publications, are quite valueless. Stress is rightly put on evaluation of the patient before surgery. There are no absolute indications for any operation in this field; every procedure must be considered in relation to an individual patient. I congratulate the author on his complete and masterly review of the complex problem of hip deformities and their management. It is in this field that mistakes are often made. After reading Dr. Keats' book, I feel sure that serious errors of judgment in the hip problems of palsied children will be far fewer. There are no boring tables to digest. The text is fairly readable. One has to get used to 'comprehensive treatment program' for 'management', and one must avoid being put off by 'methodology' or 'effective surgical protocol'.

I found the book to be the best complete account of the surgery of cerebral palsy I have ever seen. Its study will be rewarding to those whose experience in this field does not enable them to fall back upon a large personal series. The problems, the operations, the disappointments, and the successes are all well described.

N. J. BLOCKEY

U.C.H. NOTES ON PSYCHIATRY Edited by R. F. Tredgold and H. H. Wolff. (Pp. 293 and x, 50s.) Duckworth: London. 1970.

These Notes originated in broadsheets issued to medical students at University College Hospital, London, to supplement lectures and clinical teaching. They were written by many authors associated at various times with the Department of Psychiatry in various capacities, ranging from chaplain through the regular psychiatric staff, to obstetrician or dermatologist. The result is therefore a *vade-mecum* or commentary covering a more extensive area than the conventional textbook of psychiatry.

The first two-thirds of the book cover the usual ground of interviewing, psychopathology, and nosology, and there is little in the content to which objection could be taken, though it is perhaps not possible to write a psychiatric text which would not raise some eyebrows. In this respect many psychiatrists would not recognize the description of reactive depression, and most would probably find it strange that ECT should receive brief mention under 'other methods of treatment' to be considered only after antidepressant drugs (including monoamine oxidase inhibitors) have failed.

The book's distinctive feature, and its greatest asset, is its coverage of the medical, social, and ethical borderlands of psychiatry. A great deal of lip-service is traditionally paid to treating the 'whole patient', to the importance of considering psychological factors and life situations in formulating the management of an illness, but most medical texts give scant, if any, attention to these matters. It is generally hoped that the student will somehow assimilate these skills from his contact with clinicians, and that in addition to treating serious illness he will be able to deal in a professional fashion with the problems of sex or dying and will, from somewhere, acquire formed, expert opinions on sterilization or