only admission to hospital and expert clinical observation may be able to differentiate the two types. Electroencephalography during and between attacks can be of the greatest value. In support of his main thesis Dr. Rabe adduces the case history of 41 patients with combined hysterical and epileptic seizures which will surely convince the sceptic.

The author cites Kraepelin's belief that the two types of seizures may be measures taken by the organism to protect its homeostasis, but Dr. Rabe admits that the combination still escapes our understanding; he points out that in these patients there is a fundamental disturbance between the ego and the surrounding which bridges the apparently trenchant division between the two types of attacks.

J. SCHORSTEIN

ANAESTHESIA FOR NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY By P. B. McComish and P. O. Bodley (Pp. 412; illustrated; £5.50.) Lloyd-Luke: London. 1971.

This eminently readable book presents modern practice in neuroanaesthesia in the short compass of under 400 pages. The authors are to be congratulated on producing a volume of value and interest, not only to the anaesthetist but to his colleagues in surgery and neurology. By including historical notes and pathology, in the author's words, 'a background of knowledge is created so that the anaesthetist may better comprehend, and enjoy, neuroanaesthesia.' The book is divided into four sections: historical, fundamental concepts of the intracranial milieu, basic techniques in neuroanaesthesia, and methods of anaesthesia for neurosurgical procedures. The references at the end of each chapter are particularly extensive and further reading is also given. It will be of value as a textbook for reference purposes and as a manual of instruction for more than the trainee-anaesthetist as modestly suggested by the authors. With increasing trauma and the difficulty in staffing accident and emergency units, the chapter on head injuries and the associated resuscitation, as first-aid and in hospitals, can be recommended, particularly so, when junior staff may be required to deal with such demanding situations.

The illustrations and charts are clear and the book produced and printed so as to make it a pleasure to handle.

A. H. GRANAT

HANDBOOK OF LEPROSY By W. H. Jopling. (Pp. iv + 91; illustrated; £1.15.) Heinemann: London. 1971.

This small paper-back book is highly recommended. Written as a short handbook for para-medical workers, it contains sufficient concise but reliable information to suit the needs of all who have occasional need to know the essentials of leprosy, such as neurologists working in a sea-port or in areas of high immigration. It does not contain sufficient data for the neuropathologist, who will be surprised at the function attributed to Schwann cells, and it makes no mention of the diagnostic value of nerve conduction studies, but for the intended readership it is excellent.

J. A. SIMPSON

NEUROPSYCHOLOGIE: Aktuelle Probleme (NEUROPSYCHOLOGY: Pressing Problems) Edited by Manfred Haider. (Pp. 151; illustrated; DM. 22.) Hans Huber: Stuttgart. 1971.

Neuropsychology is a bastard word which describes an itch, but as yet we do not know where and how to scratch. Where is the seat of humour, where in the brain does a man compose a poem, what in electrical, biochemical, or histological terms makes this one unhappy the other romantic and yet another apathetic? Where and above all (as St. Paul would have it) is charity? Once found and measured it would be only a short step to regulate, to change and to bring it into conformity. There at last lies 'the rub'. Happily the day seems as far distant today as it did when Descartes firmly placed the human soul into the pineal gland.

The aim of this brief book is to introduce and to summarize the correlation of electrical events in the central nervous system with psychical happenings. The harvest is still but a poor one, although the number of harvesters grows each year, and the number of publications is growing apace.

In the booklet Creutzfeldt tries to find an explanation for the origin of spontaneous alterations in the EEG; how evoked and how the slower cerebral potentials come about. Grünwald discusses the basic neuropsychological investigations and their various problems.

Other papers deal briefly with the findings which may accompany stereotactic brain operations and the effects of stimulating various brain structures on brain-electrical phenomena as well as on experience and conduct. Clinical benefits are foreseen.

Finally methodological problems are presented and their possible future clinical importance is foreshadowed.

The six essays are well presented and well edited. Many psychologists and neurophysiologists will find them valuable.

J. SCHORSTEIN

BIOCHEMISTRY, SCHIZOPHRENIA AND AFFECTIVE ILLNESSES Edited by Harold E. Himwich. (Pp. xiv + 500; illustrated.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1970.

Over the past 20 years the arrival of a host of new psychotropic drugs has stimulated both treatment and research undertaken by psychiatrists. In the sphere of therapeutics the results can already be seen in the greatly improved symptomatic management of many psychiatric illnesses. Perhaps inevitably, these largely empirical successes have re-awakened interest in the possibilities of identifying a chemical basis for mental disorders, especially the functional psychoses. Here, however, problems of method and technique have so far frustrated most of the high hopes raised by the speculations and theories of the biochemists and pharmacologists. This book brings together a number of the more promising leads in 15 chapters which range widely to cover such diverse topics as catecholamine metabolism, electrolyte disturbances, steroid metabolism, indoleamines, biological rhythms, and carbohydrate metabolism. Together they constitute a useful overview of a large and growing body of investigations, justifying the claim advanced by Seymour Kety

in his introduction that the value of the volume 'lies in its being a representative exposition of current hypotheses and research, written by men who are advocates of the hypotheses or significant contributors to the research.'

MICHAEL SHEPHERD

INFORMATIONSTHEORIE UND PSYCHOPATHOLOGIE DES GEDÄCHTNISSES (INFORMATION THEORY AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF MEMORY) Edited by A. E. Adams (Pp. 124; illustrated; \$13.20.) Springer: Berlin 1971.

The author of this monograph dispenses with the hypothetical engrams for which there is no morphological, physiological, or biochemical proof. He further regards the engram theory as sterile. He prefers the measurable cognitive structural content of signals or symbols received or given by information. The information psychology of memory is treated as a special case of structuralism.

The 'morphem' is the minimal free form of speech structure, and the 'bit' is the numerical unity of information. These hypotheses are presented mathematically and applied to experimental and clinical material.

Those interested in the mechanistic explanation of memory, and of its pathology, will find the book and its bibliography valuable, although in the reviewer's opinion the main problems are not advanced by it; they open up new fields of research.

J. SCHORSTEIN

MELANCHOLIE IN FORSCHUNG, KLINIK UND BEHANDLUNG.

Herausgegeben von Walter Schulte und Werner Mende. (Pp. 236. DM 29.70.) Thieme: Stuttgart. 1970. The majority of the 38 papers in this volume were delivered at a meeting of German psychiatrists in Baden-Baden two years ago. The editors are well aware of the extent to which the popularity of the affective psychoses as a theme for symposia is due to the advent of effective antidepressant drugs, but they think the time is ripe for examining progress in various fundamental aspects of depression, as a preliminary to integrating them into a synoptic whole. The more this goal is attained, they hold, the sooner will there be an end to unprofitable dispute about the distinction between 'endogenous' and 'reactive' depression.

The first 12 papers deal with clinical problems; some of them, such as Professor Angst's on the course of depressive psychoses and Dr. Stenstedt's on genetics, are workmanlike contributions, others are semi-philosophical disquisitions which fog the issues they are intended to clarify. Epidemiological and trans-cultural aspects are next briefly reviewed. They are followed by sections on psychopathology and psychotherapy, drug treatment, biochemistry, and social aspects.

Because of their origin and the mode of presentation this collection of papers falls midway between a symposium report and a review of recent advances. Personal experience plays a large part in many of the articles.—for example, in the survey of psychoanalytic psychotherapy by an American, Dr. Lesse, or in the survey of biochemical findings by a British authority, Derek Richter. Professor Schulte, in summing up the main advances disclosed by the conference is somewhat

ambivalent. He sees the subject opening up on all sides and yielding objective findings, while at the same time recognizing the distinctive and unique character of the affective disorders: but he has to admit that in important respects the phenomena are still puzzling and obscure.

AUBREY LEWIS

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE Edited by E. D. Acheson. *British Medical Bulletin*, 27, No. 1, January, 1971. (£2.00). British Council: London.

This number continues in the well-known format and is an interesting collection of papers illustrating that the epidemiological approach is valid for many non-communicable diseases, a concept already familiar to neurologists. There is a paper by J. K. Wing on international comparisons in the study of the functional psychoses, and occasional use of neurological disorders to illustrate an argument, but in general this number has little of special interest to neurologists. Nevertheless, as a short survey of an important approach to aetiology it is recommended to doctors of all interests.

J. A. SIMPSON

DRUGS AND CEREBRAL FUNCTION Edited and compiled by W. Lynn Smith. (Pp. 288; illustrated; \$17.25.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1970.

It is an unfortunate ambition of the organizers of conferences and symposia to see the proceedings of the meeting in print. In a few cases, where the meeting focused on a specific topic at a timely moment, the result is worthwhile or may even be a classic (such as the meeting that led to the publication of *The Transmission of Schizophrenia*). But most meetings should not seek immortality, since the result is all too often an expensive, scrappy collection of brief disconnected papers with little relationship to each other, and which have all probably seen the light of day on many previous occasions. The book currently under review belongs, alas, pre-eminently to the latter class. The average length of the communications cover six to eight pages of print.

J. R. SMYTHIES

PARENTAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

By Harold D. Love. (Pp. 167; price not stated.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1970.

It was something of a surprise to discover on reading this book that the children referred to are not merely the gifted ones but also those with any form of handicap—mental, physical, or emotional. This is how the term 'exceptional' is used in the USA. The author, an educator on the staff of the State College of Arkansas, sets out to survey the topic of parental attitudes towards such children.

This is certainly an important theme with both theoretical and practical implications, for teachers and doctors as well as the children and their families. The book is a disappointment.

Firstly, the 'level' of the writing fluctuates widely, in one place, for example, spelling out simply the difference between mental illness and mental retardation, in