METHODS OF NEUROCHEMISTRY, VOL. 1 Edited by Rainer Fried. (Pp. 374; illus.; \$22.75.) Marcel Dekker: New York. 1971.

This is the first volume of a new series devoted to laboratory procedures in neurochemistry. It contains five main chapters, contributed by experienced workers in each field, covering the isolation and properties of myelin, the extraction and analysis of phospholipids, the determinations of catecholamines and their metabolites, microiontophoresis and its application to neural tissues, and a comprehensive monograph on the detection and diagnosis of mental retardation due to inborn errors of metabolism. Each chapter includes a bibliography and is well illustrated with photographs or diagrams. The methods are described with a wealth of practical detail and their limitations and possible sources of artefact are discussed.

In the final section the editor has collected together data, including structural formulae, on a large number of miscellaneous substances of particular interest to the neurochemist; the selection seems somewhat arbitrary but is nevertheless a useful addendum. Unfortunately, these compounds have not been listed individually in the general index.

Apart from a small number of errors, the book is well produced and will be valuable both at the laboratory bench and as a reference book.

The expansion of interest in neurochemistry in recent years has resulted in the development and modification of a wide range of techniques specifically for work in this difficult area of biochemistry. The launching of this new series is therefore welcome, and it is to be hoped that the generally high standard of the present volume will be maintained.

G. R. WEBSTER

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED CONDITIONS Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and M. O'Connor. (Pp. 316; illus.; £4.00.) Churchill: London. 1970.

This report of a CIBA Foundation Symposium is timely. There is a renewed awareness of the diagnostic problems of the presenile dementias and the possibility of treatment of some of them. The chemistry of the nervous system is being unravelled and the electron microscope is bringing light into darkness. If the newer information seems to make the situation more difficult by hinting at the possibility that the disease recognized by clinicians and pathologists is heterogeneous, then it is in the classic tradition. At this stage it is natural that there should be differences of opinion. Are the plaques and tangles essentially different from those of normal senility? Does head injury play a role? What is the relationship between congophilia and amyloidosis?

This symposium, organized by Professor W. H. McMenemey, does not provide the answers but will certainly stimulate many to explore this fascinating and important disorder. Perhaps some 'unknown' worker has already unravelled the tangled skeins. The 'closed shop' of the CIBA Foundation symposium (despite its proud motto) would effectively prevent him from joining the discussion. The rest of us must be grateful for the privilege of reading all about it.

J. A. SIMPSON

ATLAS OF THE MOUSE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD By R. L. Sidman, L. B. Angevine, and E. T. Pierce. (Pp. 261 + index; illus.; £12.00.) Oxford University Press: London. 1972. For Harvard University Press.

This is a carefully prepared Atlas of the mouse brain sectioned in the coronal, horizontal, or sagittal plane. Adjacent sections stained for myelin and with cresyl violet are illustrated and the various anatomical structures are clearly labelled with their Latin names. The Atlas includes more enlarged coronal sections of the brain-stem and transverse sections of spinal cord. It is a pity that the authors decided not to subdivide the cerebral cortex. The pictures are probably very poor shadows of their originals but one can just see what the labels indicate. Essential for all mouse-devotees.

SABINA J. STRICKLAND

SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS. A CIBA FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM VOLUME Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Julie Knight. (Pp. 348; illus.; £4.00.) J. & A. Churchill: London. 1970.

One of the contributors to this unusual Symposium expressed the conviction that our present knowledge of sensorineural deafness constituted a veritable 'rag-bag'. This state of affairs is reflected in this volume.

Convened at the insistence of Mr. Jack Ashley, the deaf M.P. for Stoke-on-Trent, the Symposium sought to explore the possibilities for further research into sensorineural hearing disorders. The 23 participants provide 16 articles and the kind of vigorous discussion familiar to readers of the Ciba Symposia. These range over the aetiology, pathology, and diagnosis of the various forms of the disorder, and include chapters on the anatomy of normal and pathological cochleae, the biochemistry of cochlear fluids, psychophysical data, and physiological studies of experimental deafness.

Some of the material presented has very little relevance to the problem under discussion. Thus, there is an extensive description of the properties of middle ear mucus; an article on the effects on