their perceptual problems as he pursued a research project supported by the Department of Education and Science. He proposes to present his scientific data and conclusions in another book in which he suggests that: 'The informal and slightly vitriolic style permitted by the title of the present volume would be inappropriate'. It would indeed, but no reader of *Dyslexia and the Individual* will fail to be stimulated by it; at times to rage; at times to mirth; and most often to sheer admiration for the author's ability to write excitingly clear English prose. At times this is a little too 'flashy' (Professor Meredith considers the question of jargon on pages 60 and 61 of the book), so that the full extent of his erudition is concealed; but there is a useful list of references presented in a rather unusual order, some suggestions for further reading, a number of which seem typically somewhat out of context, and an adequate index. The book is nicely produced.

All teachers, doctors, psychologists, and therapists interested in the nature of the problems encountered by children who have specific difficulties in learning to read and spell should read this very 'Meredithian' book.

T. T. S. INGRAM

NEUROLOGY CASE STUDIES By S. M. Wolf, T. L. Munsat, and P. B. Dunne. (Pp. 309; illustrated; £4.50.) Kimpton: London. 1972.

The title of this loose-leaf book does not indicate its nature unless one is familiar with the *Case Studies* series. It is in fact an account of 55 different neurological cases, covering a very wide spectrum of disorders, recorded in the conventional manner of history, examination, investigations, and diagnosis, but interrupted at each stage, sometimes several times, by a sort of multiple choice questionnaire, so that one can give oneself a critical self-examination of one's train of thought at each approach to the problem. The answers are given at the end of each case with quite elaborate discussion at times of why a particular investigation was ordered or decision reached, and why certain diseases are included or excluded in the differential diagnosis. This is followed by a number of references relevant to the particular problem under discussion. It is a neurologist's natural reaction to this type of exercise to think that he wouldn't approach it like that at all, but the more of the cases one reads, the more one realizes that indeed, with minor variations, these are the thoughts that pass through the mind at different stages of managing a case, and gradually the book developed a fascination that made it extraordinarily difficult to put down. While it is an immensely enjoyable exercise to test oneself and one's colleagues out in this way, yet a fair knowledge of the practice of

neurology is needed to appreciate the reasons for certain conclusions, and it is open to question whether this is a very good method of teaching or learning the subject for the novice. The other main criticism is that in many of the cases it is not made sufficiently clear at the end what diagnosis was arrived at. However, if the other books in this series are as good as this they must make an enviable collection for a physician to possess. There are some curious simple spelling mistakes which have nothing to do with transatlantic variants, and it is a pity that an unbound book printed by offset must nowadays cost so much.

EDWIN R. BICKERSTAFF

BRAIN DISEASES By A. Biemond. (Pp. 879; 228 figures; £24.00.) Elsevier: Amsterdam. 1970.

Authors of comprehensive textbooks on clinical neurology have been baffled by the problem of presenting a comprehensive picture of neurological diseases in a single volume. Textbooks in English have been unsatisfactory for the trainee. If they are comprehensive they are too condensed to give a good picture of the evolution of disease or of the problems of differential diagnosis. If the author prefers to give an introduction to neurology as it is practised the book is rarely suitable for reference. Professor Biemond has confined his book to cerebral diseases, thus giving himself space to write elegantly about these disorders with sufficient detail and reference to diagnostic problems to make this book really valuable for the learner and still useful as a reference book.

The first part of the book discusses localizing syndromes with indication of the main lesions likely to be encountered at each site. The second part discusses diseases from the pathological point of view, supported by statistical data carefully recorded from the University Clinic, Wilhelmina Gasthuis, Amsterdam. The book contains more detail on neuropathology, EEG and neuroradiology than other similar textbooks but lays emphasis on diagnosis by clinical methods. The sections on treatment naturally reflect local preferences, some of which will be unfamiliar to British readers.

J. A. SIMPSON

THE BIOLOGICAL BASES OF BEHAVIOUR Edited by Neil Chalmers, Roberta Crawley, and Steven Rose. (Pp. 318; illustrated; *.) Harper and Row for the Open University Press: London. 1971.

The increasing interest in 'behavioural science' has centred mostly on its 'soft' or sociological end. Its neurobiological components have been very much neglected, even in medical schools, despite the fact