sage advice deserves to be broadcast far and wide; especially to reach those rather obtuse, half-knowledgeable psychologists and dubiously competent sociologists who, on the strength of a few fleeting hospital visits, publish their remunerative little books as dramas of hospital ill-treatment.

In the third paper, 'Growing up in hospital', Miss Stephen and Miss Robertson, in a humane exposé, demonstrate how an institution may be made a better place for the inmates and it is a pleasure to commend them for their clear comprehension of the triumphs as well as the uncertainties.

The three papers have each a bibliography, but lack of an index is disappointing in a publication of this calibre.

R. C. MACGILLIVRAY

ROLE OF VITAMIN B₆ IN NEUROBIOLOGY: ADVANCES IN BIOCHEMICAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY. Vol. 4 Edited by M. S. Ebadi and E. Costa. (Pp. 238; illustrated; \$18.75.) North-Holland: Amsterdam. 1972.

The widespread importance of vitamin B₆ as a co-enzyme in many biochemical reactions is now well established. The emphasis of this volume is on the role of B₆ in the metabolism of neurotransmitters in health and disease; it is a multi-author work containing 13 articles mainly describing experimental studies on various topics in this field. There is also an interesting discussion on the effects of pyridoxine administration on the clinical response of patients with Parkinsonism to L-dopa. Detailed experimental findings are discussed with numerous clear tables and diagrams; each chapter includes an extensive bibliography.

The book is likely to appeal principally to specialist neurochemists and neuropharmacologists, but should also be of value as a reference source on B₆ metabolism to neurobiologists generally. The standard of production is high, but so unfortunately, at nearly £8, is the price.

G. R. WEBSTER

SCHIZOPHRENIA: PHARMACOTHERAPY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY By L. Grinspoon, J. R. Ewalt, and R. I. Shader. (Pp. 290; £5.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1972.

When this seven year project was launched in 1961 there was obviously a need for such a painstaking study of the comparative value of pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy in the management of chronic and acute schizophrenia, the authors having especially, but not solely, concerned themselves with patients ill for a number of years. While not wishing

to detract from the value of the work, one can nevertheless debate the impact of this publication 11 years later, in the light of numerous similar studies reported in the interim. The writers, like others, have demonstrated the misplaced efforts of psychotherapists in this field. Although a trifle unhappy about the diagnosis of patients 6 and 8 and more so about patient 26, whose history suggests a mixed affective state, my main reservation concerns the validity of the assessment procedures, as in a few cases the reported clinical course conflicted with changes in these objective measurements.

J. A. G. WATT

PAIN By R. Janzen, W. D. Keidel, A. Herz, C. Steichele, J. P. Payne, and R. A. P. Burt. (Pp. 464; illustrated; £8.00.) Churchill Livingstone: London. 1972.

It is a curious fact that until recently the interest in pain of many doctors has been confined to its value as an aid to diagnosis, and in its treatment by medical or surgical means. Evidence from the medical press suggests that much of the treatment given is inadequate and that scant attention is paid to developing a comprehensive approach to the analysis of patients' pain. The latter involves not only traditional, and usually inaccurate, knowledge of anatomical pathways and physiological systems but also of the complex psychological and cultural factors which influence the pain experience. The editors of *Pain* provide a good starting point for those personally interested in improving their knowledge of this ubiquitous experience. As expected, in a symposium dealing with topics which provide a rich field for idiosyncratic opinions, a wide range of information is represented which is both stimulating and mostly relevant. The three sections of the book deal first with basic concepts of pain, next with the relative merits of different forms of medical and surgical treatment, and last with the clinical use of one analgesic, pentazocine. Many distinguished workers have contributed to this book which is warmly recommended to every doctor in clinical practice.

M. R. BOND

NOTICE

DANUBE SYMPOSIUM ON NEUROLOGY AND PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY AND JOINT SESSION WITH DANUBE SYMPOSIUM ON NEUROPATHOLOGY 24-26 October 1973, Vienna. Inquiries to: Professor Dr. F. Gerstenbrand c/o Neurologische Univ. Klinik, Lazarettgasse 14, A-1097 Wien, Austria.