

It was recognized that their educational difficulties had been magnified by poor facilities for diagnosis and treatment and this prompted the establishment of the Word Blind Centre.

The very existence of specific dyslexia was the subject of widespread controversy among neurologists, psychologists, and teachers. Every shade of opinion was held. Part of the original remit given to the research workers was the investigation of the nature and causes of this disability. Remedial teaching was made available whenever it was required or was geographically feasible.

The subjects of this study formed a small, self-selecting group. Matching them boy for boy with 'normal' children provided only small numbers for statistical analysis.

The comments on the dyslexic child's particular handicaps are highly relevant, yet the contrasts with the peer group are less convincing. Community studies or school children have shown for example that left handedness is no more common among dyslexic children than in the general population.

*Specific Dyslexia* provides an excellent account of the work at the Word Blind Centre and is a tribute to the imaginative and dedicated people who worked there.

I. T. DRAPER

CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW AND INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE  
Edited by C. Fieschi. (Pp. 238; illustrated; £17.60.) Karger: Basel. 1972.

This well-produced, handsome book records the papers given at the Fifth International Symposium on Cerebral Blood Flow held in Rome and Siena in October, 1971. It contains 110 papers and 14 pages of the discussion which formed the final session of the meeting. As with previous conferences the range is wide with section headings including autoregulation, chemical and neurogenic control, focal ischaemia, carotid surgery, subarachnoid haemorrhage, cerebrovascular disease, and intracranial tumour (odd bed-fellows in one section), head injury and experimental raised intracranial pressure. This does not suggest any overall theme although the organizers make several claims for a theme, but each one is different. In the foreword the claim is that attention is focused on head injury and intracranial pressure. In small type on the title page there is a sub-title 'Cerebral blood flow regulation, acid-base and energy metabolism in acute brain injuries' while the main title is 'Cerebral blood flow and intracranial pressure'. This is quite deceptive because less than 10% of the papers are on this topic, and this volume should not be confused with the report of the International Conference on Intracranial Pressure which was held in Hanover in 1972. Many leaders in this

field, who were themselves participants, considered that the Rome-Siena conference came too soon after the London meeting the previous year for there to be a considerable body of new work to report. As might be expected there certainly were some thinly disguised repeats of previously good presentations. Nevertheless, the book is a must for those in the field, even though most worthwhile work briefly reported here is likely to emerge in fuller form elsewhere. The rather terse style demanded by limitations of length of text, together with the restriction on the number of illustrations, may make it difficult for the uninitiated to grasp the full meaning of all the communications. The essentially ephemeral nature of this kind of preliminary exchange of information between experts is ideally suited to the kind of inexpensive paperback which was produced soon after the London meeting. To put such material between hard covers at the price of £17 is somewhat pretentious and inappropriate.

BRYAN JENNETT

ABRÉGÉ DE NEUROLOGIE By J. Cambier and M. Masson. (Pp. 575; 171 figures; 37F.) Masson: Paris. 1972.

This synopsis of neurology for undergraduates is remarkably good. It achieves an excellent compromise between simplification and comprehensiveness and is illustrated by very good line drawings. The fortunate readers of this book should acquire a genuine understanding of modern neurology. The arrangement of the book is good and the well-selected references are international.

J. A. SIMPSON

SLEEP RESEARCH: A critical review By Frank R. Freeman. (Pp. 205; illustrated; \$14.15.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1972.

Here is a small, costly book about sleep. It is clearly written, though not always accurately. Despite the title, the author summarizes rather than critically reviews knowledge. He is strongest on studies of unit activity in animal brains and good on the relation between epileptic EEG activity and sleep, but weak on biological rhythms, dreaming and human sleep. He says repeatedly that the delay between sleep onset and the first REM sleep period is about two hours, when actually it is one hour.

It is misleading to say that the sleep attack of the narcolepsy/cataplexy patient is an episode of REM sleep. Often it is, but equally as often it is not at the time of a first recording and repeated recordings are then needed to demonstrate whether the patient will sometimes reveal this pathognomonic feature. To state that among hypnotics only barbiturates have a

high suicide potential is unfortunate nonsense. There are so many errors that the book can only be commended as a source of references, though two I wanted to look up from the text were not listed at the back.

IAN OSWALD

**NEUROLOGY FOR NURSES** By Edwin R. Bickerstaff. 2nd edn. (Pp. 156; 42 figures; hard backed £1.50; soft backed 80p.) English Universities Press: London. 1971.

The first edition was well received and the second will increase its reputation as essential reading for nurses, physiotherapists, radiographers, electroencephalographers, and laboratory technicians working in the neurological field. The author has a gift for clear exposition of basic essentials. It is not a book about neurological nursing, but an elementary account of clinical neurology.

J. A. SIMPSON

**COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY** Edited by A. Summerfield. Vol. 27 No. 3 of *British Medical Bulletin*. (Pp. 290; illustrated; £2.00.) British Council: London. 1971.

Primarily addressed to experimental psychologists, this issue of *British Medical Bulletin* records a change of emphasis since Volume 20 No. 1 which is of interest to neurologists concerned with higher cerebral functions. At an immediately relevant level are valuable chapters on dysphasia, cognitive deficits in children, normal and pathological memory, and the neurological basis of complex learning, but all the material in this excellent number will influence future methods of studying minimal brain damage.

J. A. SIMPSON

**COMPANION TO PSYCHIATRIC STUDIES** Edited by Alistair Forest. (Pp. 484; illustrated; £10.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1973.

Under the editorial directions of Dr. Alistair Forest, a group of psychiatrists, chiefly from Edinburgh, has produced one of the first textbooks designed primarily for those intending to sit examinations for membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The book consists of two volumes, the first being concerned with clinical science and administration, and the second with clinical practice. To write a book in anticipation of the requirements of an examination clearly presents difficulties in terms of both the selection of contents and the standard of information required. In the case of Dr. Forest's book the selection of topics is broad but the amount of detail offered in individual chapters is very variable and at times inadequate. However, most

contributors give extensive bibliographies which include key papers and books. Chapters concerning the biochemical basis and clinical aspects of affective disorders are particularly good value. Overall, the impression gained is that a bold attempt has been made to design a new examination text but competition from established works will be difficult to overcome.

M. R. BOND

**PSYCHIATRIE DER GEGENWART: KLINISCHE PSYCHIATRIE II** Edited by K. P. Kisker, N. E. Meyer, M. Müller, and E. Strömgen. (Pp. 1275; illustrated; \$78.70, DM 248.) Springer: Berlin. 1972.

Since the first edition of this handbook, the section on clinical psychiatry has grown from one to two volumes. This second volume is largely organic and will be of interest to both neurologists and psychiatrists as it deals with the debatable land between their specialties, traditionally less divided in German speaking countries, from which most of the contributors are drawn. Some English and French contributions appear in their own tongue.

The sections on the organic psychoses are models of diligence. They can be criticized for an excessive attention to the minutiae of classification but as a source of reference, particularly in regard to rarer diseases, they are invaluable. Most of the sections have been expanded or completely rewritten, often by new contributors. Some problems of balance, seemingly inevitable in such large texts, have not been solved. Epilepsy is dealt with in 238 pages (including 85 on drug therapy alone), while the clinical chapter on mental retardation has only 62 pages and is less detailed than one would expect in a text of such size. Reflecting trends in psychiatry, the other two major sections—on addiction, including alcoholism, and the psychiatry of old age—have been considerably expanded. The references throughout are extensive and catholicly chosen from past and present world literature.

I. M. INGRAM

**LEARNING, SPEECH AND THOUGHT IN THE MENTALLY RETARDED—Symposia 4 and 5** Edited by A. D. B. Clarke and M. M. Lewis. (Pp. 83; illustrated; £1.80.) Butterworths: London. 1972.

The relevance of developmental linguistics to mental handicap is now widely realized. We are now in the third era of the study of speech and language. The first era was one of observation and collection; the second era, neurophysiological exploration and study of thought processes; and the third era, characterized by Chomsky, Mittler, Brown, and Lenneberg, is concerned with deep and surface structures and generative grammars. This era is also the