

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

one in which the comprehensibility and applicability of linguistics are most likely to be lost to the clinician.

This collection of papers is, therefore, an assurance to the clinician who has some prior knowledge of psycholinguistics, that clear, clinically relevant, research is being done in the United Kingdom, and that psychometric techniques are being devised to forge an organic link between diagnosis and treatment.

The papers consist of paediatric/psychological research reports and rich review articles of the fields of cognition, teaching, and communication. The content of the papers and discussions emphasizes how the training and the teaching of the mentally handicapped is becoming increasingly technological and precise; but there is no risk in this book of the clinician becoming prematurely biased in favour of either 'behaviourism' or 'cognitive' psychology.

We are becoming increasingly aware of the intricacy and spontaneity of the child's language development and of the universality of the linguistic devices he uses. At several points in the book the importance of the development of the two word utterance is reiterated. Once the child has learned to string two words together he has crossed a language watershed and the prognosis if he is mentally handicapped seems less grave. Further reports by the authors of these papers are eagerly awaited.

This is one of the more valuable, optimistic and practical books in this series, but, like others in the series, the cost is high for such a slim volume.

W. I. FRASER

PITUITARY TUMOURS By J. S. Jenkins. (Pp. 206; illustrated; £5.) Butterworth: London. 1973.

Collaboration is the basic principle in this book, and the result is the production of a concise monograph packed with valuable yet integrated information. Dr. Jenkins himself deals most efficiently with the anatomy and physiology of the pituitary gland, the clinical manifestations of pituitary tumours, and the endocrinological assessment and management of patients. And there he stops, because he has invited a pathologist (Dr. M. R. Crompton), an ophthalmologist (Dr. P. J. Holmes Sellors), a neuroradiologist (Dr. J. A. Ambrose), a neurosurgeon (Mr. A. E. Richardson), and a radiotherapist (Dr. H. J. G. Bloom) to write chapters on particular aspects of pituitary tumours. Thus every chapter is based on the writer's personal and very considerable experience and, as an extra bonus, each one is written clearly and concisely. Anyone involved in the management of tumours of the pituitary gland should find this a most useful book.

J. HUME ADAMS

BRAIN'S CLINICAL NEUROLOGY 4th edn Revised by Roger Bannister. (Pp. 439; illustrated; boards edn £4.80; paperback £3.00.) Oxford University Press: London. 1973.

This is the fourth edition of this deservedly popular and reasonably priced textbook. There have been a few additions of a brief nature such as diseases due to 'slow virus' infection. With rising costs it will be necessary to prune future editions to keep this book good value for money and, therefore, popular with undergraduates. Perhaps the chapter on poliomyelitis could be shortened. Eleven lines for the vasovagal attacks of Gower seems excessive when neuralgia amyotrophy receives only seven!

J. H. D. MILLAR

MENTAL RETARDATION—ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS: Symposia 9, 10, and 11 By Barbara E. Clayton. (Pp. 112; illustrated; £2.50.) Butterworths: London. 1973.

This small book comprises a series of papers delivered at three symposia at the Middlesex Hospital in 1971 and 1972. Interdisciplinary conferences and symposia are fashionable at present. They are often stimulating for the participants and no one would quarrel with their aims. But must the papers inevitably be published in book form especially when there is no real unity of theme despite a single title?

Elek and Dudgeon discuss the role of viruses in aetiology and, with such authorities, the interest and the quality of the papers is guaranteed. Clarke and Adinolfi are selective and critical in materno-foetal incompatibility, while Goldberg and Bicknell deal with lead poisoning. The discussions which followed the papers are fully reported.

There are many intriguing facts in these symposia which contain a substantial amount of relevant data clearly and concisely presented. The book is admirably produced and edited by Barbara Clayton. It should interest many clinicians working with the mentally handicapped and is a model of how symposium procedures should be published. It is recommended without reservation.

R. C. MACGILLIVRAY

THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BRAIN By John C. Eccles. (Pp. 238; illustrated; £1.95.) McGraw-Hill: Maidenhead. 1973.

This book is about the properties of neurones, synaptic mechanisms, the control of movement, and the embryology of the central nervous system. The embryological chapter contains some very good pages on memory. There is a final philosophical chapter with which I am out of sympathy. At least the first five chapters are well-written and interesting,