

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 neuralgic 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,