texts, but all the methods described are in use by the authors and they have introduced their own useful modifications to improve results in the nervous system. The text succeeds in its aim of making accessible the special techniques required for demonstrating the component parts of the nervous system, rightly emphasizing that they are still necessary for a proper understanding and demonstration of neuropathology.

Minor criticisms can be aimed at repetitiousness in the description and illustration of silver methods for axons, and at the colour plate of the frontispiece. This adds little or nothing to the monochrome illustrations in the text, and does not seem to justify its additional cost.

D. G. F. HARRIMAN

LOW BACK PAIN By B. E. Finneson. (Pp. 376; illustrated; £11.50.) Lippincott: Philadelphia. 1973.

The author of this book on low back pain is an American neurosurgeon who now devotes most of his time to this problem, and the book largely reflects medical practice in the United States—emphasizing removal of iophendylate after myelography with no mention of water soluble contrast media, and warning of possible lawsuits for failure to warn patients about the sexual consequences of surgery.

The book in many ways is a personal statement, drawing on the author's considerable experience and is profusely illustrated. There are useful sections on the conservative management of patients with back pain and sciatica, and on the newer, largely unproven, methods of treatment such as discolysis with chymopapain or collagenase, prolotherapy, facet rhizotomy, and dorsal column stimulation.

British neurosurgeons who have in their practice a number of patients with persistent pain after surgery, often performed elsewhere, may turn to this book hoping for sound advice on the place of repeat lumbar exploration, on the advisability of deroofting root canals or doing a complete laminectomy, on the place of fusion of the lumbar spine, but most will receive confirmation of their own feeling that the problem of 'recurrent disc' has no easy solution. Spinal dysraphism is not mentioned in this book; indeed, spina bifida has only one page reference in the index and this is wrong. The neurosurgeon will also be likely to feel that the order in which spinal tumours are discussed could usefully be inverted and it is surprising to find no mention of ependymoma of the cauda equina.

The more general reader of this book will be dismayed to find back pain related to pregnancy and pelvic disease relegated to 'uncommon causes' alongside obturator entrapment neuropathy and to

find no mention of urinary tract infection in the differential diagnosis of backache.

Two errors which require urgent amendment are the illustration on page 22 which shows the tendon of psoas major crossing anterior to the inguinal ligament and the statement on page 296 that 241 wound infections in 1,000 disc operations represents a rate of 2.41%.

There is helpful advice and information in this book but it is unlikely to become a work of reference.

J. DOUGLAS MILLER

CURRENT ISSUES IN ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY Edited by J. C. Schoolar. (Pp. 270; £5.50.) Butterworths: London. 1973.

Although Erikson was not one of the contributors to this valuable new addition to the literature on adolescent psychiatry, his thinking and writing have clearly influenced the majority of the contributors to an extent which clearly acknowledges the importance of his work in this field.

Joseph C. Schoolar, the editor, must be praised for his skill in bringing together in this symposium volume distinguished authors and a wide range of topics which on the one hand study in depth some of the problems particular to adolescence while on the other hand offer a broad backcloth of social, cultural, and economic factors relevant to this generation of adolescents and their parents.

A good book can stand criticism, a bad one doesn't warrant it. On the whole there is little to criticize but perhaps those authors, however distinguished, who frequently preface a particular concept with the words 'so-called' should be wary of such an expression unless they make it quite clear that they fully understand the concept. British readers may question the relevance of some chapters to our own scene but we should remember that we have our own developing black and immigrant ghettos and similar types of poverty and social deprivation. Finally, as Dr Schoolar himself says, there are omissions due to limitations of time and space in this otherwise excellent book.

JAMES D. TEMPLETON

CLINICAL STUDIES IN BEHAVIOUR THERAPY WITH CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, THEIR FAMILIES By J. M. Stedman, W. F. Paton, and K. F. Walton. (Pp. 309; \$18.59.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1973.

This book sets out to record the efforts of behaviour therapists to extend the range of their treatment in the child-clinical-field over the years 1962–72. The editors have selected 28 papers from various journals to give as comprehensive a coverage as possible. This is at once the strength and weakness of the book. On the one hand their choice illustrates the determina-

tion of behaviour therapists to come to grips with the wide variety of problems of children with common clinical problems such as school phobia or obsessive compulsive neurosis, with deviant behaviour in school, difficulties within the family, delinquency, and the management of child groups. The other side of the coin is that the book is an uneven mixture of reasonably well-established techniques juxtaposed with studies which are clearly experimental in nature and of little practical assistance to workers in the field. Some condensing could have been effected without losing any of the strengths of the book.

The introductory chapter on the language of applied learning is poor because of its impenetrable language and should be used as a glossary, and not as the authors suggest read before starting on the treatment procedures.

The book is aimed at a general audience and should find a place in libraries that cater for students particularly those not taking specialist journals. As a source book of the major techniques of behaviour therapy it is invaluable, being both specific and practical. Some mention must be made of the excellent bibliographies at the end of each chapter. One small note of criticism here is the omission of the pioneering painstaking work of Brannigan in the teaching of autistic children. On a technical note, the binding disintegrated on first touch, separating pages v to 18 from the rest of the book.

BRENDAN P. GERAGHTY

PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE By A. Munro. (Pp. 95; £1.75.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1973. This small book brings together 12 articles which were published in *The Practitioner* throughout 1972. Each presents a brief review of a particular topic, and the series was designed primarily for general practitioners. The particular topics covered are: skin disease; asthma; coronary heart disease; hypertension; tiredness and headaches; ulcers; weight disorders; locomotor disease; epilepsy; gynaecology, and ulcerative colitis. A degree of superficiality is inevitable in such a context, but overall the chapters are well-balanced and informative. The book should prove particularly valuable to medical students, but psychiatrists and other specialists will also find it useful. It should, hopefully, provide a stimulus for further study and inquiry to all medical practitioners, whatever their specialty.

A. WAKELING

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- LE LANGAGE DES DEMENTS By L. Irigaray. DG.68. Mouton: Paris. 1973.
- BASIC NEUROLOGY By J. P. Schade and D. H. Ford. 2nd edn. Price not stated. Elsevier: Amsterdam. 1973.
- SCHIZOPHRENIA: BEHAVIOURAL ASPECTS By K. Salinger. £3.10 cloth; £1.80 paper. Wiley: Chichester. 1973.

THE ECONOMICS OF MENTAL RETARDATION By R. W. Conley. £7.15. Johns Hopkins: London. 1973.