

Book reviews

HANDBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY Vol. 13. Neuroretinal Degenerations By P. J. Vinken and G. W. Bruyn. (Pp. 493; illustrated; \$54.75.) North-Holland: Amsterdam, 1972.

This volume is the only volume in the series dealing exclusively with neuroophthalmology. It consists of 13 chapters, the first being a general introduction to the subject matter by the late Alex. Krill.

Each of the chapters is in effect a monograph on one or more syndromes with ocular and neurological manifestations. As is common in a work by a number of authors, the style and quality of the chapters vary greatly and apart from the inclusion of an introductory chapter there has been no apparent attempt to delineate each author's subject matter so that a considerable degree of repetition occurs, rarities like Wagner's vitreoretinal degeneration being described separately in at least three chapters. This is most apparent in relation to the investigation of visual function, for brief descriptions of the newer forms of visual field testing, colour vision testing, dark adaptometry, electrophysiology and fluorescein angiography are given separately by several authors, whereas a chapter on this aspect of the subject would with benefit have been included at the beginning of the book. This would have enabled these important techniques to be described in greater detail and would have avoided unnecessary repetition.

In spite of these criticisms, most of the chapters are well written and give a good up-to-date account of a range of hereditary conditions which are of interest and importance to the neurologist and the ophthalmologist alike.

The bibliography is remarkably extensive. For example in the chapter on Primary Pigmentary Retinal Degenerations, which forms the largest section of the book, the references run to 40 pages. The book is well printed and the quality of the illustrations excellent. Most of these are in monochrome but there are a sufficient number of colour photographs to illustrate the majority of the abnormal retinal appearances discussed in the text.

I would recommend this book to the ophthalmolo-

gist who is seeking an up-to-date review of the hereditary retinal degenerations. Neurologists will find much to interest them but the neurological content of some of the chapters is not great.

WALLACE FOULDS

PSYCHO-PATHOLOGY Edited by M. Hammer, K. Salzinger, and S. Sutton. (Pp. 588; illustrated; £9.50.) Wiley: New York, 1973.

This large compendium comprises 29 chapters by 37 eminent authors from the disciplines of psychiatry, psychology, sociology, and statistics. It is principally a reflection of advancing ideas in North America in the field of psychopathology and has been compiled in honour of Joseph Zubin, a doyen of psychological research in the United States. Those who equate psychopathology with psychoanalytic theory or with the European phenomenological approach may be surprised or disappointed to find that this work treats psychopathology as behavioural dysfunction and is chiefly concerned with those objective features which are amenable to systematic analysis. Within this broader framework the book succeeds in presenting a wealth of challenging commentaries on current research topics in this area.

The book is divided into six parts: (1) the external milieu, (2) acquisition, maintenance and alteration of behaviour, (3) psychophysiology and psychophysics, (4) the internal milieu, (5) problems of psychiatric classification, and (6) mathematical description. This format permits a wide-ranging presentation including forays into epidemiological research, learning theory, neurophysiology, psychopharmacology, statistical and computer applications in so far as these illumine the problems of psychopathology.

This work is an important although expensive portrayal of contemporary thought in the behavioural sciences and will certainly be of great value to clinical psychiatrists and psychologists, especially those who are involved in research and teaching. Emphasis is placed upon evaluative studies and a willingness to cross interdisciplinary boundaries.

A. BALFOUR SCLARE