Book reviews

HANDBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY Vol. 13.
Neuroretinal Degenerations  By P. J. Vinken and
G. W.Bruyn. (Pp. 493; illustrated; £54.75.)
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 neuro-
logical 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 appar-
ent attempt to delineate each author’s subject matter
so that a considerable degree of repetition occurs,
rarities like Wagner’s vitreoretinal degeneration be-
ing 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 ophthal-
mologist alike.
The bibliography is remarkably extensive. For
example in the chapter on Primary Pigmentary
Retinal Degenerations, which forms the largest sec-
tion of the book, the references run to 40 pages. The
book is well printed and the quality of the illustra-
tions 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 heredi-
tary 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;
This large compendium comprises 29 chapters by 37
eminent authors from the disciplines of psychiatry,
psychology, and statistics. It is principally a reflec-
tion 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 present-
ing 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 includ-
ing forays into epidemiological research, learning
theory, neurophysiology, psychopharmacology, sta-
stistical and computer applications in so far as these
illumine the problems of psychopathology.
This work is an important although expensive por-
trayal 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