

informative abstracts for publication. This is inevitably a disappointment and one feels the editors would have been wiser to have omitted these summaries altogether. The book finishes on a higher note with the publication in full of the Otfried Foerster Memorial Lecture given by Professor Krayenbühl on spinal intramedullary tumours. The publication in English of these papers in such a commendably short time is a worthwhile addition to the neurosurgical literature and an eloquent testimony to the healthy state of academic neurosurgery in West Germany.

J. DOUGLAS MILLER

RECENT ADVANCES IN THE BIOLOGY OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

By T. A. Ban. (Pp. 119; \$12.50.) Thomas: Springfield. 1973.

This is a concise and easily read monograph on the biological aspects of schizophrenia. It falls into two sections. The first concerns those findings in the fields of psychophysiology, neurophysiology, biochemistry, and genetics which give good evidence for the idea that schizophrenia is a biological disorder. The author mentions a very wide range of work and this is indeed a comprehensive review of current thought on this subject. It is perhaps regrettable that no comment is made on the relative merits of these pieces of work and the inexperienced reader could have the impression that positive abnormality in these fields is a more usual finding than is normally held to be the case.

The second section concerns physical methods of treatment of schizophrenia and the greatest emphasis is naturally placed on the use of phenothiazine drugs. Work on this topic is discussed at much more length than is given to any subject in the first section and ample space is devoted to the recent studies of the author and his colleagues. Valuable as this may be, it seems inadvisable to give so much space to the author's own work at the expense of the classic findings mentioned so briefly in the first section. This brevity is to some extent offset by the very detailed lists of references provided, although numbers of these would not readily be traced by the European reader. The book is, however, an interesting and understandable if rather expensive introduction to a topic which may easily appear beset with confusion and contradiction to those new to psychiatry.

EVE C. JOHNSTONE

ANXIETY FACTORS IN COMPREHENSIVE PATIENT CARE

Edited by W. Linford Rees. (Pp. 106; illustrated; \$10.40.) Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1973.

Anxiety and patient care was the subject for an International Symposium held in Amsterdam in

March 1973 and eight papers presented are published in book form. Professor W. Linford Rees opens with a survey of psychological and physiological aspects of anxiety together with a very brief account of principles of treatment. Professor J. J. Groen presents an interesting and lucid account of the theoretical contribution of neurophysiological research to psychosomatic medicine illustrated by reference to the treatment of disorders of the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and vascular systems. Both he and Dr Meltzer, who adopted a similar approach when dealing specifically with anxiety factors in cardiovascular disease, stress the need for a combined pharmacological and psychological approach during treatment. Three papers concerning anxiety in sexual disorders, general practice, and gynaecology follow and, apart from the last one which is below the standard of the rest, are sound but uninspiring. The complexities of pain and anxiety are admirably summarized by Dr Bruyn who suggests ways in which neurophysiological mechanisms underlying these experiences may interact. Finally, Professor Max Hamilton gives a carefully balanced view of current opinions about the relation between depression and anxiety.

Although of limited scope this is an interesting book but the price is rather high for its size.

MICHAEL R. BOND

NOTICES

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PAIN (IASP) IASP has been founded to (1) stimulate progress in study of pain mechanisms and management of chronic pain by bringing together basic scientists, physicians, and other health professionals; (2) promote education, training, and communication in this field, including sponsorship of *Pain*; (3) sponsor triennial congress; (4) recommend standards related to use of drugs, appliances, and other procedures in treatment of pain. Details from Dr John J. Bonica, Chairman of Organizing Committee IASP, Department of Anesthesiology RN-10, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington 98195, U.S.A.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON OTONEUROLOGY Paris, 7-10 May 1975. Details from Dr J. M. Sterkers, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Cochin, 27, rue du Faubourg St Jacques, 75674 Paris CEDEX 14, France.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CHILD NEUROLOGY Toronto, Canada, 6-10 October 1975. Details from: Miss B. Harrington, Executive Secretary (International Child Neurology Association), Division of Neurology, Hospital for Sick Children, 555 University Avenue, Toronto, M5G 1X8, Ontario, Canada.