

The symposia deal with congenital anomalies of the CNS, tumours of the CNS, operations for craniospinal vascular conditions, with stereotaxis and with neurotraumatology. Obviously these subjects are not dealt with comprehensively but the views of experts are presented, together with a chairman's summary of the discussion, and together these give a good idea of the areas of continuing interest and controversy in contemporary neurosurgery. This volume is, therefore, a useful addition to the neurosurgeon's bookshelf and is commendably slim. Excerpta Medica are coy about quoting prices either for the volume in the reader's hand, or for those advertised on the back. Another mystery is why the 'co-editor' with the two Japanese editors, should be an orthopaedic surgeon from London; could no English-speaking neurosurgeon afford to go to Tokyo?

BRYAN JENNETT

A CENTENNIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HUNTINGTON'S CHOREA 1872-1972 By G. W. Bruyn and N. C. Myrianthopoulos. (Pp. 314; DG57.50.) Martinus Nijhoff: The Hague. 1974.

Anyone with an interest in Huntington's chorea will have cause to thank the compilers of this bibliography, which will prove an invaluable source of reference for many years to come. Over 2 000 references to Huntington's chorea, published between 1972 and 1973 have been listed, first in chronological order where each is given a code number. The codes are then listed under 16 categories, such as biochemistry, or differential diagnosis, and also under different geographical sources. The bibliography is completed by extensive subject and author indices.

C. D. MARSDEN

TRENDS IN NEUROPHYSIOLOGY Edited by A. M. Monnier. (Pp. 267; illustrated; \$45.50.) Masson: Paris. 1974.

This volume results from a symposium held to celebrate the 70th birthday of A. von Muralt, professor of physiology in the University of Bern since 1935. Others than von Muralt's very many personal friends and admirers may think of buying or borrowing it to get a general view of recent trends in neurophysiology. For the physiology of nerve cells, they will not be disappointed. The contributors in this field are mostly very distinguished. They write mainly about their own work, and sustain a high standard of interest and readability. Between them they cover nearly every aspect of the physiology of nerve cells at least in rough outline, and many aspects in detail. The physiology of the brain as a whole (or of anything larger than a cell, fibre or synapse) is

considered in only two of the 25 chapters, of which one is regrettably uncritical, and the other, though interesting and economically written, describes work completed nearly 30 years ago.

G. S. BRINDLEY

COMMON NEUROSES IN GENERAL PRACTICE By J. C. M. Wilkinson and K. Latif. (Pp. 164; £2.95.) Wright: Bristol. 1974.

It is important to note the subtitle of this book, '*A Behavioural Approach*' since it looks at the neuroses from this viewpoint and indeed aims to be a do-it-yourself behaviour therapy manual for general practitioners. Other approaches to treatment—namely, traditional psychotherapy and psychotropic drugs—are mentioned especially where their use can be combined with behaviour therapy, but the main emphasis is on their limitations. This is fair enough especially in a book on behaviour therapy, and I think all would agree that treatment of neurosis is at present often unsatisfactory. A fresh approach in this field is, therefore, welcome.

Unfortunately, the practitioner looking for shortcuts may be disillusioned, since many of the treatments described are time consuming by the standards of general practice here and now. One merit of the book is its practical approach, based as it is on the authors' considerable experience in a behaviour therapy unit. For a book of this size quite a lot of detail is given, probably enough to deter the over-casual amateur.

As well as covering the neuroses as commonly understood, the book has useful chapters on sexual dysfunction and deviations, based on the work of Masters and Johnson (which not everyone may have had time to read). There is a useful guide to behaviour therapy units in this country.

The book is up to date in a developing field, and, although it may be appreciated by the general practitioner with special interest in psychiatry, it is, in my opinion, more suitable for psychiatric trainees or even consultants.

N. A. TODD

NOTICE

ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE Meeting: Basal ganglia disorders, 5 and 6 December 1975, New York City. President and Chairman Dr Melvin D. Yahr. New developments in ultra-structure, biochemistry, and physiological abnormalities of the many disorders of the basal ganglia as well as mechanisms involved in control of motor and behavioural activities in brain will be discussed, and particularly aetiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, and dystonia. Details from Secretary-Treasurer of ARNMD, Dr H. Houston Merritt, 722 West 168th Street. New York, N.Y. 10032, U.S.A.