

unending series of superb illustrations of distortion and herniation of the brain and of tumours of the nervous system. In addition to the illustrations, there are many interesting and informative diagrams of the preferential sites of predilection of specific brain tumours and tables of their age and sex incidence.

One has to accept that fully illustrated atlases must be expensive, and this is no exception particularly since it really has to be used in conjunction with Zulch's *Atlas of the Histology of Brain Tumours*, but this is an important atlas which ought to be readily available in libraries and departments to everyone with an interest in clinical neuropathology.

J. HUME ADAMS

A MANUAL FOR RESIDENTIAL AND DAY TREATMENT OF CHILDREN By M. G. Evangelakis. (Pp. 369; \$14.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

This manual is intended for the guidance of the various professional groups concerned with the in-patient care of emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children. The author, who is psychiatric director of the Children's Division, South Florida State Hospital, Hollywood, Florida, has produced what in Britain we refer to as a manual of clinical procedures of the type which many departments provide for junior medical staff on their arrival. The emphasis here is, however, mainly on administrative structure (with numerous 'organograms'), schedules of work, and lines of communication with occasional brief excursions into theoretical orientation and philosophy of endeavour. It is all very detailed, precise, and possibly rather rigid. It is the sort of presentation more likely to raise hackles than questions. Yet, in a rapidly developing specialty where little has yet been published on the principles of residential psychiatric treatment of children, Dr Evangelakis has made a brave contribution.

FRED H. STONE

PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS By R. A. Woodruff, D. W. Goodwin, and S. B. Guze. (Pp. 222; illustrated; £2.50.) Oxford University Press: New York. 1974.

This book is almost a brief textbook of psychiatry, embodying the attitudes and the fruits of the research of the school of psychiatry at Washington University, St Louis. Yet the title is appropriate, since the authors' main concern is with diagnosis, as precise diagnosis as possible. Their diagnostic criteria, set out in operational terms in an appendix, have been derived from surveys of clinical features of groups of patients as well as from family studies and follow-up investigations. This approach is vigorously defended in another appendix, entitled

'Disease in medicine and psychiatry'. As one of the authors points out in the foreword to the book, this approach, often contemptuously dismissed as organic, would be more accurately described as agnostic. As befits a man from Missouri, he wants to see the evidence.

Twelve psychiatric categories are described, which account for most of the classical syndromes, although their concept of hysteria is more circumscribed than that of most psychiatrists. The authors also have a category of 'undiagnosed'. The book has much to commend it. To start with, it is well produced and reasonably priced. It contains lots of facts, lots of up-to-date references. There is little speculation, very little of psychodynamics, and the dynamically inclined reader may find it all rather arid. Moreover, treatment is adumbrated rather than described. But one must remember that the authors make no claim to cover the whole field of psychiatry, or even to provide a true textbook, so that these limitations can hardly be held against them. I think that the book is worth buying for what it is.

J. L. GIBBONS

PSYCHOBIOLOGY OF CONVULSIVE THERAPY Edited by Max Fink, Seymour Kety, James McGaugh, and Thomas A. Williams. (Pp. 312; illustrated; £6.40.) Winston: Washington. 1974.

Since convulsive therapy was introduced by von Meduna in the 1930s it has been galling to psychiatrists that so little should be known about what is probably their most effective single therapeutic tool. Recently there have been signs that the clouds of mystery and superstition which surround ECT might soon be dissipated.

This volume reports the proceedings of a conference held in Puerto Rico in 1972 which was attended by many international experts who have contributed to advances in this field. It brings together most of what was then known about the effects of convulsive therapy in depression as well as important data on its influence on different aspects of memory and learning, and describes the results of investigations on the biochemical changes associated with its use. The concluding chapters by the editors summarize in an admirably succinct form the results of years of experimentation in many centres, and add some interesting speculations which should lead others to formulate testable hypotheses. The only notable omission is the lack of information provided on the use of this form of treatment on certain types of schizophrenia.

The book should at least be browsed through by all practising psychiatrists and by anyone interested in the biological aspects of mental illness.

RAYMOND LEVY