

useful descriptions of the different surgical approaches to the cervical and dorsal spines.

Several papers review the current status of treatment of severe congenital abnormalities of the spine, and discuss alternatives to immediate closure of meningomyeloceles. There are contributions on the blood supply of the spinal cord, the mechanism of syringomyelia and syringobulbia, and on the use of evoked potentials for prognosis in spinal cord injury.

The volume ends with an important contribution on mechanisms and management of spinal cord injury. References are given after each section. Although most of the work is already published, the sections provide stimulating reading about some of the more difficult aspects of spinal surgery. The volume should be of value to orthopaedic and paediatric surgeons, as well as to neurosurgeons.

R. D. ILLINGWORTH

BIOCHEMICAL ASPECTS OF NERVOUS DISEASES Edited by J. N. Cumings. (Pp. 265; price not stated.) Plenum Press: London. 1972.

The scope of this book is best indicated by listing its contents: metabolic aspects of some diseases of peripheral nerves (J. Wilson and R. H. S. Thompson), biochemistry of muscle diseases (R. J. T. Pennington), biochemistry of demyelination and demyelinating diseases (B. Gerstl), biochemistry of copper in man and its role in the pathogenesis of Wilson's disease (J. M. Walshe), brain amine metabolism in some neurological and psychiatric disorders (G. Curzon), biochemical neurological disease in children (L. I. Woolf).

Most chapters present their material in a form suitable for the clinician, but it must be conceded that certain aspects of biochemistry cannot be simplified without loss of precision. Nevertheless, many practising neurologists will be glad to have this useful summary available for consultation. It is well edited and the production is good.

J. A. SIMPSON

DICTIONARY OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE By B. B. Wolman. (Pp. 478; illustrated; £5.95.) Mac-Millan: London. 1974.

Dictionaries in the behavioral sciences are rare indeed, and any new dictionary warrants careful examination. This dictionary has been prepared with the help of 99 scholars who aimed to cover fields ranging widely from psychology to endocrinology. Any dictionary has limitations, and this one is no exception. In areas with which the reviewer is familiar, some of the definitions appeared so short and terse as to lose completely the flavour of the defined concept, whereas others merely juggled words—for example, 'ejaculatio deficiens' is defined

as 'inadequate ejaculation'. A further criticism is that, in psychology at least, the approach is very much North American, reflecting a stress on psychodynamic approaches, and on psychometrics. However, these criticisms are a little unfair, for it is very rare indeed to be able to find such diverse topics as signal detection theory, and psycho-analytic theory dealt with in the same book.

At the price (nearly £6) for 478 pages, this is certainly good value for money, although the price may put it beyond the reach of many of the undergraduates for whom it would be most valuable. Certainly this dictionary should find a place in any university library, and in many specialist departmental libraries.

D. NEIL BROOKS

KETAMIN By M. Gemperle, H. Kreuzer, and D. Langrehr. (Pp. 464; illustrated; \$25.20.) Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York. 1973.

The pharmacology of anaesthetic drugs is sometimes presented as a progression of decreasing CNS excitability leading to marked depression and death. On the other hand, increasing irritability represents a continual process in the opposite direction leading to hyperexcitability and death. Anaesthetic agents are usually regarded as depressants but some are, in fact, CNS stimulants capable of inducing hallucinations. Ketamine and gamma-hydroxybutyric acid are examples of the latter.

The book on ketamine contains the Proceedings of the 2nd Ketamine Symposium held in Mainz, West Germany, in April 1972 and is concerned mainly with three broad aspects of pharmacology—namely, cardiovascular effects, actions on the central nervous system, and clinical applications. It is generally agreed that ketamine causes a significant rise in blood pressure, which is interpreted in various papers as being due to a direct stimulation of the myocardium, alpha stimulation, or increasing effectiveness of endogenous and exogenous catecholamines. Ketamine also causes a rise in intracranial pressure and several papers advise that this agent should not be used in patients with space-occupying lesions. To avoid untoward effects, it seems that there is a need to resort to polypharmacy. It is suggested, for example, that the frequency and severity of psychomotor activity and hallucinatory dreams can be reduced by various drugs including dehydrobenzperidol. This drug is also recommended to produce adrenergic α -blockade to counteract hypertensive effects of ketamine, but it is not emphasized that this action is only transient.

Although there is some enthusiasm for ketamine in clinical practice, there is concern about emergence

from this drug with the high incidence of side-effects. It has little use in eye surgery because of increase in intraorbital pressure and there are also some doubts about its use in obstetrical and visceral surgery.

JOHN BARKER

NEW PERSPECTIVES IN MENTAL HANDICAP Edited by A. Forrest, B. Ritson, and A. Zealley. (Pp. 235; illustrated; £2.50.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1973.

Three psychiatrists have edited this compilation of 13 essays by themselves and eight Edinburgh colleagues from the fields of paediatrics, genetics, nursing, social work, education, hospital administration, and voluntary organization. Despite its strong local orientation the book is intended for a wide market of students and for workers in subnormality services. References are unusually plentiful for a brief text mostly at introductory level; the 58 after T. D. Hunter's polemic on hospital management take up 3½ pages. J. K. Brown's survey of the paediatrician's role is a concentrated distillation of clinical experience, but other medical chapters are of uneven quality and in places extremely cursory. In the 14 pages on clinical syndromes, cerebral palsy, for example, is described in 16 lines only under the section-heading 'rubella' (and to find it anywhere in the index one must look under E—for 'environmental causes'); only nine metabolic abnormalities are very briefly described. Provision of care rather than pathology is the major theme, however, and the non-medical contributions reflect vigorous endeavour to gain recognition and resources for the needs of the mentally retarded. Loose editing has allowed repetition and overlap to an extent unfortunate in a book advocating the multidisciplinary team approach, but the authors' enthusiasm and the urgency of their case come across well.

P. G. CAMPBELL

LA TRANSMISSION CHOLINERGIQUE DE L'EXCITATION Edited by M. Fardeau, M. Israel, and R. Manaranche. (Pp. 300; illustrated; 50F.) L'Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Medical: Boulogne. 1972.

This is a report of a symposium organized in 1972 in Paris on the morphology, cytochemistry, metabolism, and physiopathology of cholinergic synapses (almost entirely neuromuscular). The papers will be of interest to those actively working in that field but the book is not a systematic review, and the interpretations offered are those of the contributors.

J. A. SIMPSON

BOOKS RECEIVED

LEITFADEN FÜR DIE PSYCHIATRISCHE UNTERSUCHUNG By H. King. (Pp. 154; illustrated; \$7.80.) Springer: Berlin. 1973.

CRISIS INTERVENTION AND COUNSELING BY TELEPHONE Edited by David Lester and Gene W. Brockopp. (Pp. 322; illustrated; \$11.95.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1973.

GEWALT TATEN GEISTESGESTORTER: EINE PSYCHIATRISCHEPIDEMIOLOGISCHE UNTERSUCHUNG IN DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND By W. Boker and H. Hafner. (Pp. 292; illustrated; \$35.10.) Springer: Berlin. 1973.

IS IT MORAL TO MODIFY MAN? Edited by Claude A. Frazier. (Pp. 352; illustrated; \$10.95.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1973.

PATIENT POWER By P. M. Margolis. (Pp. 154; \$8.95.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1973.

INTRODUCTION TO ACUPUNCTURE ANESTHESIA By W. C. Lowe. (Pp. 101; illustrated; \$5.00.) Medical Examination Publishing: New York. 1973.

THE FUNCTIONS OF SLEEP By E. L. Hartmann. (Pp. 198; illustrated; £3.50.) Yale University Press: London. 1974.

LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS By M. Z. Davis. (Pp. 66; \$5.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1973.

REPÈRES ET MESURES EN RADIODIAGNOSTIC By A. Coussment. (Pp. 232; illustrated; 130F.) Expansion Scientifique Française: Paris. 1974.

NEUROLINGUISTIC APPROACHES TO STUTTERING Edited by Y. Lebrun and R. Hoops. (Pp. 152; illustrated; DG54.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1973.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Edited by S. Feldman. (Pp. 395; illustrated; \$18.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF MIGRAINE Edited by W. E. Waters. (Pp. 81; illustrated; price not stated.) Boehringer Ingelheim: Bracknell, Berks. 1974.

NOTICES

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY In honour of the President, a MacDonalld Critchley Lectureship has been established by the Institute of Neuroscience, St Barnabas Hospital, New York. A distinguished speaker in the field of neurosciences or humanities will be invited every second year, commencing June 1975.

ERRATUM

We much regret that a phrase was omitted in the editorial 'SI units and problems of communication' (Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry, 1975, 38, 4). The final sentence in the first paragraph should read 'It is recommended that these should be expressed in terms of International Units. In the meantime blood pressure will continue to be expressed as mmHg and not as pascals'.