channel filtered monitor system is used, where is the best recording site? (p. 40 describes the most convenient, is it the best?). Survival is not all—can I predict the quality of recovery? The information is on pp. 185, 192, and 197 but none of these is indexed under 'prognostication'. Production is good, but the elegant marketing in a sealed envelope did not prevent omission from the review copy of the important introduction on patient selection and recording techniques.

This is the best book available on an important subject.

J. A. SIMPSON

NEUROLOGY SERIES/SCHRIFTENREIHE NEUROLOGIE
Edited by H. J. Bauer, H. Gänshirt, and P. Vogel. (Pp. 212; illustrated; DM 98.) Springer: Berlin. 1973.

The powers of recovery, the resilience of the infantile and adolescent brain after trauma are remarkable. This fact is underlined by this investigation.

Two hundred and forty patients varying in ages from 0–20 years were meticulously clinically investigated during a five year period of hospital admissions. These investigations were repeatedly undertaken as were electroencephalographic studies. Nearly a third of the book deals with electroencephalographic appearances and the abnormalities are exhaustively discussed.

As in all similar series the mildly injured far outweighed the more severe cases. Ninety-three had not been unconscious at all and a further 104 had been unconscious for less than an hour. This left 43 more severely injured patients of whom 20 were added to the 220 who, strictly speaking, belonged to the five year material. Patients were selected for the purpose of this investigation out of a total of 503 admitted head injuries if their EEG and its subsequent changes indicated the presence of cerebral trauma. This method of selection appears to me unsatisfactory and may explain why the investigators found such a very high number (32.5%) of cerebral abnormalities preceding the trauma in their material (mental deficiencies, epileptics, and cerebral palsies).

The series is well documented and if it produces no startling new insights it is not the fault of the painstaking researchers in this well-ploughed field.

J. SCHORSTEIN

ANTICONSULSANT THERAPY By M. J. Eadie and J. H. Tyrer. (Pp. 204; illustrated; £4.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1974.

This book from Brisbane is divided into three main sections. Part 1 is concerned with basic principles of clinical pharmacology, the measurement of plasma levels of drugs and anticonvulsant therapy in general.

Part 2 deals with the pharmacology of individual anticonvulsants, and Part 3 with how they should be used. There are about 25 pages of references at the end of the book which is completed by a useful index.

The authors point out that the clinical pharmacological approach to the treatment of epilepsy is rapidly becoming integrated into routine management in everyday clinical practice. They feel, therefore, that there is room for a book which considers the treatment of epilepsy in this light, and which sets out the principles of clinical pharmacology in a form tailored to the needs of the practising clinician. The authors are well-qualified for their task, and the book will repay careful reading.

The pharmacology of anticonvulsant drugs is described in considerable detail, as is now becoming the custom in books concerned with the treatment of epilepsy. This has become necessary with the immense growth of knowledge in this field, and the time has also come when some of it, at least, can be put into practice. The busy physician may find all this somewhat daunting, but at least he should find it a stimulus to strive towards the better use of anticonvulsant drugs, and in this respect this book will be of much assistance.

MAURICE PARSONAGE

DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM *British Medical Bulletin*. Vol. 30, Number 2. (£2.25.) Medical Department, The British Council: London. 1974.

That the damaged central nervous system is incapable of useful regeneration and that the interneuronal connections laid down during development cannot be influenced by the environment are shibboleths which engender a feeling of resignation and hopelessness in the clinician. Though prepared to accept a vague concept of plasticity in young brains, most doctors are sceptical that physical forms of therapy can influence the functioning pattern of the damaged nervous system. Are these widely held beliefs justified? This interesting issue gathers together the recent advances in knowledge of development and regeneration at neuronal, synaptic, and glial levels. It is now unquestionable that growth can be modified by environmental factors including sensory input and nutrition and that regeneration of axons, synapses and myelin does occur. If the resulting recovery is negligible in clinical terms is it necessary to leave the matter there? A very interesting paper reviews the possibility that regrowth is arrested by a local immunobiological mechanism which could, in principle, be modified hormonally. The interaction between glia and neurones and the effect of distal section of an axon on the capacity of its neurone to accept bouton contact should be known to neuro-

pathologists. In the present enthusiasm for neurotrophic substances the important evidence of retrograde regulation of neuronal protein synthesis from the neuromuscular junction and the important studies on localized cell-cell adherence should be more widely known.

The second part on behavioural development in young animals and human infants is interesting in its own right. It may be premature to link these studies with the first part at cellular level, but the implications for teaching, training, and therapy are important.

J. A. SIMPSON

SCHMERZBEKÄMPFUNG (POST-OPERATIVE PAIN ALLEVIATION) Edited by W. F. Henschel, Bremen. (Pp. 172; illustrated; price not stated.) Schatlaue: Stuttgart. 1972.

The ideal therapy for relief of postoperative pain has not yet been discovered. The drugs, the opium derivatives, which most successfully combat pain have unwelcome side-effects, particularly depression of respiration and clouding of consciousness. This fact is underlined by several speakers in the present symposium which covers a conference held in Bremen in May 1971. Epidural anaesthesia has many advantages after abdominal or lower limb operations. The technique is simple and the success impressive. In this brief collection of essays the whole problem of the postoperative relief of pain is exhaustively discussed and brought together by an introduction by the editor. A good deal of repetitiveness is unavoidable in a work of this nature.

J. SCHORSTEIN

A STUDY ON THE ORIGINS OF MENTAL RETARDATION By M. Iivanainen. (Pp. 173; illustrated; £4.40.) Spastics International Medical Books: London. 1974.

One thousand mentally handicapped patients admitted consecutively to the Rinnekoti Institution constitute Dr Iivanainen's basic material. Of these, 880 who were still alive on 31 December 1966 were subjected to physical, cytogenetic, EEG, and echoencephalographical examinations. On the basis of these, further studies were carried out on 338 patients.

The population was a selected one of severely handicapped people, and the aim of the book is to describe their neurological and neuroradiological findings with reference to aetiology. Dr Iivanainen's work supports Hagne's view that it is possible to make a fairly accurate aetiological diagnosis in about 90% of the mentally handicapped when detailed studies are made.

Dr Iivanainen's clear, scholarly, and up-to-date

account of the present state of clinical knowledge of this subject, is a useful corrective to the folklore of mental retardation still too often purveyed. This is a new book to be warmly welcomed and recommended.

RONALD C. MACGILLIVRAY

THE INTERNATIONAL PILOT STUDY OF SCHIZOPHRENIA, VOL. 1 World Health Organization. (Pp. 427; Sw. Fr. 56.) World Health Organization: Geneva. 1973.

This book is a report of a study carried out in nine countries into the occurrence of functional psychotic illnesses. The main emphasis was placed on schizophrenia. The principal intentions of the study were to see if schizophrenia could be shown to occur in a definitely recognizable form in the various cultures involved and to examine the possibility of recording and classifying the features of the psychoses in a reproducible and comparable way in all the countries concerned. To this end, more than 1,200 patients were examined. They were aged between 15 and 44 years and had functional psychotic illnesses of recent onset. They were examined principally by means of the Present State Examination. Analysis of the results in various ways showed that similar groups of schizophrenics could be identified in each of the nine countries involved. It appeared from the study that it was possible to develop reliable techniques for examining psychosis on an international basis. The book confines itself to a description of the project which was carried out in a most detailed and careful way. No reader could fail to be impressed by the thoughtful and meticulous nature of this work which had produced results of fundamental importance to psychiatry. Despite this, he could perhaps find it at times difficult to sustain his attention to this book which by virtue of its adherence to matters of fact and attention to fine detail is a little dry in style.

M. R. BOND

NOTICE

SECOND CONFERENCE ON DYSTONIA New York Hilton Hotel, New York City, N.Y., evening 31 May, and all day 1 June 1975. Attendance at symposium is open. Details from Dr Roswell Eldridge, Section on Genetics, NINDS, NIH, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, or Dr Stanley Fahn, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, 710 West 168th Street, New York City, N.Y. 20032, U.S.A.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CIANS (COLLEGIUM INTERNATIONALE ACTIVITATIS NERVOSAE SUPERIORIS, SECTION OF WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION Prague, 30 June-3 July 1975. Details from Local Organizing Committee, of Congress, Czechoslovak Medical Society, J. E. Purkyně, Sokolská 31, 120 26 Praha 2, Czechoslovakia.

Book reviews

DISORDERS OF PERIPHERAL NERVES By W. G. Bradley. (Pp. 316; illustrated; £9.75.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1974.

The recent surge of knowledge about disorders of peripheral nerves has slowed down, and the time is opportune for a reasonably sized book to orientate the non-specialist. Professor Bradley has written an excellent one which will be helpful to all who require a systematic review of the subject from historical, structural, clinical, and investigative points of view. General physicians have usually diagnosed 'peripheral neuritis' before asking advice from a neurologist and usually appear to be disappointed when given a long list of possible causes. Frustration is increased by the aetiological blindness of electrophysiology and, to a great extent, histology. The subtle clinical distinctions which sometimes aid the educated guess are to be found by careful study of this book but might have received more emphasis.

The section on electrophysiology is adequate for its purpose but the account of H waves and F waves must be reconsidered in the next edition. Pathology is well-illustrated, notably by good line drawings. Blood-nerve barrier is briefly described but perhaps given less emphasis than required. An allocation of two chapters to diseases of anterior horn cells and myopathies seems unnecessarily generous in a book on peripheral nerves. But these are minor criticisms of an excellent book which is sure to be welcomed.

J. A. SIMPSON

BOOKS RECEIVED

PATHOLOGY OF THE CEREBRAL BLOOD VESSELS By W. E. Stehbens. (Pp. 661; illustrated; £11.00.) Kimpton: London. 1972.

DYING AND DIGNITY By M. J. Krant. (Pp. 154; \$7.95.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

MODERN PROBLEMS OF PHARMACOPSYCHIATRY *Trazadone*. Vol. 9 Edited by T. A. Ban and Silvestrini. (Pp. 210; illustrated; price not stated.) Karger: Basel. 1974.

EXPERIMENTS IN THE REHABILITATION OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED Edited by H. C. Gunzburg. (Pp. 336; £5.80.) Butterworths: London. 1974.

A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN By H. H. Foster, Jr. (Pp. 88; price not stated.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

LIVING OR DYING Edited by N. B. Levy. (Pp. 145; illustrated; \$10.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

LIFE STRESS AND ILLNESS Edited by E. K. E. Gunderson and R. H. Rahe. (Pp. 264; illustrated; \$19.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

PSYCHIATRY FOR THE POOR By R. Hunter and I. Macalpine. (Pp. 264; illustrated; £1.50.) Dawsons: London. 1974.

VERLAUF UND AUSGANG SCHIZOPHRENER ERKRANKUNGEN By G. Huber. (Pp. 272; illustrated; DM 38.) Schattauer: Stuttgart. 1974.

MEDIZINISCHE PSYCHOLOGIE UND MEDIZINISCHE SOZIOLOGIE By Hans H. Wieck, Helmut Valentin, and Gustav Specht. (Pp. 228; illustrated; DM 18.) Schattauer: Stuttgart. 1973.

THE DOCTOR'S LAWYER By Marc J. Lane. (Pp. 99; illustrated; \$12.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

SOCIAL THERAPY IN PSYCHIATRY By David H. Clark. (Pp. 157; 45p.) Penguin: Harmondsworth. 1974.

MEDICAL IMPAIRMENT TO DRIVING By Julian A. Waller. (Pp. 95; \$7.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1973.

PLAYING AND REALITY By D. W. Winnicott. (Pp. 194; 50p.) Penguin: Harmondsworth. 1974.

OCCUPATIONAL STRESS Edited by A. McLean. (Pp. 111; illustrated; \$9.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

PSYCHOANALYSIS AND WOMEN Edited by Jean Baker. (Pp. 415; 75p.) Penguin: Harmondsworth. 1974.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WORK By Michael Argyle. (Pp. 291; 69p.) Penguin: Harmondsworth. 1974.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PRACTICE Edited by R. S. F. Schilling. (Pp. 466; illustrated; £4.50.) Butterworths: London. 1973.

NEW PERSPECTIVES IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT Edited by Brian Foss. (Pp. 266; illustrated; £1.00.) Penguin: Harmondsworth. 1974.

MENTAL DISORDER AND SEXUALITY IN THE CLIMACTERIC By Tore Hällström. (Pp. 158; illustrated; price not stated.) Esselte Studium: Stockholm. 1973.

CORRECTION

The title of the book *Neurology Series*, reviewed on p. 415 of the April issue was incomplete and should have read *Neurology Series/Schriftenreihe Neurologie: Das Hirntrauma im Kindes- und Jugendalter*. By H. Lange-Cosack and G. Tepfer.