

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 this 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.