generation of the cord. There is a recommendation that vitamin B₁₂ should be administered intrathecally. To gain credence, such unconventional statements should be supported by the results of experiment or clinical trial.

There is a formidable bibliography giving access to the continental literature, but again it is disappointing to find no critical guide to the content and value of these papers. In his foreword, Wintrobe says that this book is a welcome addition to the haematological literature. It cannot be so warmly welcomed to the neurologist's library.

IVAN T. DRAPER

ADVANCES IN BIOCHEMICAL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY: vol. 9—PHENOTHIAZINES AND STRUCTURALLY RELATED DRUGS; vol. 10—SEROTONIN—NEW VISTAS: HISTOCHEMISTRY AND PHARMACOLOGY; vol. 11—SEROTONIN—NEW VISTAS: BIOCHEMISTRY AND BEHAVIORAL AND CLINICAL STUDIES; vol. 12—NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY OF MONOAMINES AND THEIR REGULATORY ENZYMES Series edited by E. Costa and P. Greengard. (Pp.: vol. 9—818; vol. 10—329; vol. 11—428; vol. 12—462; illustrated; price not stated.) Raven Press: New York. 1974.

A major problem of working scientists is the vast increase in the literature they ought to read. Anything which eases this burden is to be welcomed and anything adding to it to be deplored. Increasingly some publishing houses are producing a bound version of the contributions to research symposia masquerading as books. All four of these volumes in this series from the Raven Press come into this category. There are occasions when it is valuable to take stock of a particular branch of science, especially if advances have been rapid, and an international meeting of research workers is the best way we know of doing this. Only occasionally are these proceedings so valuable in defining the new situation as to merit publication. More often the papers are of a tentative, sometimes speculative, nature because the work is still in progress, they are bereft of the benefits of vigorous refereeing such as they would get if submitted to a reputable journal, and often the same data are, or have been, published in some other form. These disadvantages in my opinion usually outweigh the advantages of having in one (or two!) volumes an account of much of the active work in progress on a particular problem. The lack of editing is particularly reflected in the size of such publications; in the present instance, for example, it requires two volumes to deal with 'serotonin—new vistas' alone.

These volumes, therefore, are not intended for the ordinary reader, nor would they be read in their

entirety by even the specialized research worker. The books could not be recommended, therefore, other than possibly as a reference addition to a central library, at whom they were no doubt directed.

J. S. GILLESPIE

REGIONAL CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW IN NEUROLOGICAL PATIENTS *Monographs on Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery Series No. 1* By P. C. M. Mosmans. (Pp. 216; F67.50.) Van Gorcum: Assen, The Netherlands 1974.

This monograph details the experience of Dutch workers in measuring cerebral blood flow in 70 patients with neurological disorders. There is a brief and inadequate introductory review of the literature on methodology and cerebrovascular physiology; results are presented in a repetitive, anecdotal, and totally unhelpful way. Although the work is subtitled *Clinical significance (of cerebral blood flow) and correlation with EEG*, the author presents little or no evidence of either. One doubts whether data such as these really merit publication in the form of a book. It certainly cannot be recommended.

J. DOUGLAS MILLER

NEUROLOGICAL CLASSICS Compiled by Robert H. Wilkins and Irwin A. Brody. (Pp. 204; illustrated; \$17.50.) Johnson Reprint Corporation: New York. 1973.

This is a modest little volume which most neurologists would like to possess. It is not an original work of scholarship but gathers together translations, and sometimes abbreviations, of some classical descriptions from the neurological literature, previously published in the *Archives of Neurology*. A review cannot list the 41 chapters which only have in common the historical interest. Neurologists are accused of ancestor worship. This small book is a justification.

J. A. SIMPSON

THE ALPHA SYLLABUS By Barbara B. Brown, and J. W. Klug. (Pp. 347; \$17.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1974.

This book claims to offer 'a compendium of recent reports containing significant information concerning EEG alpha'. The terminology employed and the very patchy type of information are unjustifiable in such a well-printed book. As an example, the first reference (page 3: A.1 'Pioneers in the Electrophysiology of the Nervous System') is related to an exhibit at an international congress, not a publication: 'the exhibit consists of several panels, each depicting the first public description of electrophysiologic discoveries...'. The bibliographical

indication of this is correct but it contains only a list of the titles of each exhibit!

In the preface the emphasis is on recent work but there are quite a number of references between 1950 and 1963. Each quoted reference is neither in alphabetical order of author, nor in date order, but only in a peculiar grouping of key words of difficult utilization. Some of the abstracts of each quoted paper extend over one page while others are only three or four lines. Some are just reproductions of abstracts of communications in a journal, as originally printed, while others are partly digested. The many omissions are difficult to detect because of the complexity of indexing but important papers seem to be entirely forgotten.

The reviewer finds it difficult to understand what group of readers might benefit in purchasing this book, although the serious student of EEG might like to check the clarity of some of the summaries. The most useful part of this book seems to be the list of 'supplemental references' which covers 25 pages, even if some of them have really nothing to do with the alpha rhythm.

G. PAMPIGLIONE

A QUESTION OF MADNESS By Z. A. Medvedev and R. A. Medvedev. (Pp. 205; 40p.) STARDOM THE HOLLYWOOD PHENOMENON By A. Walker (Pp. 367; 55p.) THE SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF WORK By Michael Argyle. (Pp. 280; 60p.) LOVE By R. Houghton. (Pp. 202; 40p.) THE LIFE AND WORK OF SIGMUND FREUD By Ernest Jones. (Pp. 670; £1.25.) Penguin: Harmondsworth. 1974.

In this clutch of paperbacks, Freud's biography and Argyle's work are outstandingly valuable. Ernest Jones' trilogy described Freud's life as an epic, with 'affectionate objectivity'. This 1961 one-volume abridgement is still a good guide to how 'the chaste and puritanical Freud' became (in Auden's phrase) part of the air we breathe. The guide is frankly biased; he was the only foreigner in the group of orthodox psychoanalytical faithful. Critical accounts of Freud multiply, and his correspondence reveals more as it is published piecemeal; but here Jones gives a moving account of the hero he knew, and his long struggles, sufferings, and achievements.

Freud's aims for his clients were 'to love and to work'. Very different however, is the approach in Michael Argyle's scholarly survey. Empirical rather than speculative, he covers a vast field and yet remains readable. Any working doctor who wants to understand some of the best available knowledge about work and its problems, will find Argyle's book of the utmost relevance.

Rosemary Houghton ably and wittily surveys some

of the attitudes to love in the work of anthropologists, novelists and others. *Stardom* is an entertaining narrative of the creation of stars and anti-stars as seen by a distinguished film critic.

The Medvedev's book is a reminder of the Russian variant of the political use and abuse of psychiatry: the biochemist's account of his experience in 1970 is supplemented by his brother, a historian.

GAIUUS DAVIES

DEPRESSION: THEORY AND RESEARCH By J. Becker. (Pp. 239; £5.65.) Winston/Wiley: Washington. 1974.

This book starts well, raising important questions about the status of mood, and outlining some of the pitfalls when discussing depression. Unfortunately, the author does not answer the questions or avoid the pitfalls; this perhaps reflects the state of research and theory in depression. The selection of papers is at times biased, as is the detail with which they are reported. The chapter headings suggest a well-organized approach but a more detailed examination of the contents raises doubts. Studies on conditioning and the work of Lewinsohn *et al.* might appropriately have been included in the section on behaviour formulations, which are inadequately covered or appreciated. The largest single chapter, psychodynamic theories, is a clear presentation of the development of these theories, reflecting the author's interest, which colours his comments on work within a different framework, at times inappropriately.

Genetics and neurophysiology are briefly, but adequately, dealt with and the chapter on biochemistry deals almost exclusively with Schildkraut's catecholamine hypothesis. This is an ambitious attempt to cover a wide area concentrating on more recent work (since Beck's 1967 review). In scope, it is wider than Beck, although it omits a chapter on treatment. It should occupy a position on the bookshelf beside Beck as it gives a reasonable introduction to most of the important areas of research.

RONALD J. MCKECHNIE

NOTICE

IVTH ASIAN AND OCEANIAN CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGY 16-21 November 1975, Bangkok, Thailand. Details from the Secretary General, Dr Athasit Vejajiva, Division of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital, Rama 6 Road, Bangkok, Thailand.