

difficult by the untimely deaths of Dr Lorentz de Haas, Professor Bremond, and two of the contributors, Dr R. M. Norman and Professor Dr H. H. Landolt.

A criticism of all volumes of the *Handbook* is that, apparently with the purpose of making each volume self-contained, authors have been permitted to include much material which is covered more fully in other volumes. There is no cross-index, and the supplementary material is sometimes inaccurate. An example of this is the attribution of subacute sclerosing panencephalitis to infection by the rubella virus (p. 351).

Chapters on treatment and prognosis are useful, but one cannot find clear guidance on withdrawal of therapy. The chapter on electroencephalography is well-balanced, indeed one of the best practical accounts available.

J. A. SIMPSON

HANDBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY VOL. 16.
TUMOURS OF THE BRAIN AND SKULL. PART I.
Edited by P. J. Vinken and G. W. Bruyn. (Pp. 748; illustrated; Dfl. 228.00; US \$87.70.) North Holland: Amsterdam. 1974.

The present volume of the *Handbook*, first of three on cerebral tumours, has very valuable chapters on the biology and epidemiology of brain tumours, but it is largely devoted to intracranial hypertension, brain oedema, the differential diagnosis of intracranial space-occupying lesions, and phenomena related to tumours such as epilepsy, papilloedema, acoustic-vestibular disorders, psychiatric and endocrinological aspects, and to diagnostic techniques such as CSF examination, EEG, echoencephalography, isotope scanning, biopsy, and neuroradiology (without the EMI scan). The latter chapters are very good but might well have been diverted to a separate volume on diagnostic techniques in neurology. Until the final index is available it is difficult to know where to look for the very valuable chapters in this series.

Production is excellent but the publishers might note that most errors of translation, or of proof reading, occur in the legends to figures and tables.

J. A. SIMPSON

PSYCHOLOGY By R. Brown and R. J. Herrnstein.
(Pp. 762; illustrated; £6.50.) Methuen: London. 1975.

This book grew out of a series of lectures given by the authors at Harvard in 1970 and 1971 to non-specialist students. The topics dealt with, therefore, were those that might have interested or stimulated a student before beginning a specialist course in psychology, and the book is clearly aimed at introductory psychology students. The book does not follow a

formal plan dealing with each area of psychology in turn; instead each chapter is complete in itself and may be read as a separate essay. This approach has much to recommend it, given a creative selection of topics, and an interesting treatment of each topic. Unfortunately, with one or two exceptions, the selection of topics is anything but creative, being somewhat pedestrian, and a number of the topics, such as motivation or learning, are dealt with in a way more appropriate to psychology of the 50s or 60s rather than the 70s. There are, of course, exceptions, and the chapter on language is both fascinating and up to date, including, as it does, the important experiments on language usage in chimpanzees.

The book could not really be recommended for purchase by students, although students would certainly be advised to read the chapters on language and schizophrenia for well-rounded and interesting essays, and the chapter on psychotherapy for an example of blinkered conclusions based on inadequate evidence.

D. NEIL BROOKS

THE PSYCHOBIOLOGY OF DEPRESSION Edited by J. Mendels. (Pp. 175; illustrated; £8.10.) Spectrum Publications: New York. 1975.

At first sight this book looks topical, original, and important. It appears to consist of a series of chapters commissioned from well-known research workers in various fields of biological study of depression. Nothing in the foreword or in the publisher's blurb contradicts this impression. Yet the book reads like conference proceedings. For example, chapters are very uneven in merit: some are scholarly reviews of the literature, some are reviews of the authors' own work, at least one is an account of experimental work more suited to a scientific journal. Then we note, from footnotes, that two of the chapters were presented at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1974. Finally, in his postscript, the editor tells us that the book consists of 'papers presented at this symposium'.

Whether symposium proceedings should be published obviously depends on the quality of the papers. Some of the papers are worthwhile, bringing together research data not previously so conveniently assembled. Others are more ephemeral. Because this was not really a carefully planned book, the editor has felt obliged to write a final chapter to fill in some gaps.

All in all, the book is probably just sufficiently useful for librarians to purchase a copy. Nevertheless, surely a volume of conference proceedings, however memorable, should always plainly be labelled as such on the front cover?

J. L. GIBBONS