of collaborators from all over the world. After the first two chapters by F. C. McIntosh and J. R. Brobeck which directly concern Stevenson and his work, there is a short historical chapter by A. F. Adolph. The remainder of the book comprises 24 review articles which cover the whole field of homeostasis, and the regulation of energy balance, with particular reference to the hypothalamus and the limbic system. Subjects which are reviewed include the control of feeding behaviour, salt and water balance, respiration, body temperature, neuroendocrinology, and the clinical consequences of disorders of function of the hypothalamus and limbic systems.

As such, it covers an extensive area of neurophysiology, and the articles, which are high level reviews in which the authors discuss the present state of knowledge in their own field of work, will be of great interest to active workers in this field of study. Clinical readers may find parts of the book difficult but there is much in it to interest the neurologist, and many will be grateful to the authors for providing an authoritative account of the present position in a rapidly growing field.

J. A. R. LENMAN

BIOLOGY OF THE MAJOR PSYCHOSES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS. Edited by Daniel S. Freedman. (Pp. 384; illustrated; \$22.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1975.

It is fair criticism of books based on symposia that they are of transitory value, being based on selected contributions at an arbitrary point in time and not placed in context as in the true textbook. For this reason, neurologists and many psychiatrists will be disappointed in this volume but it is recommended for quick scanning as an indication of concepts which are generating research into the biology of mental disease. Is progress being hindered by clinical classification based on markers of doubtful validity? Are there biological measures specific to the schizophrenic or the manic-depressive psychoses, or to specific aspects of these? It is the old dichotomy of the lumpers and the splitters.

There are fresh looks at clinical and genetic criteria. Speculations about neuro-integrative disorders in schizophrenia are too hazy for rigorous testing, but some consistent abnormalities of EEG and evoked potentials, neuromuscular abnormalities, and pursuit eye movements are pointers to minor neurological differences in psychotic patients. Naturally, the greatest interest is currently in the role of amines and neurotransmitters in mental disease, with some indication that Ungerstedt's dopaminergic mesolimbic system may be important in the neural substratum of thought processes in the human.

There is still no definitive evidence for single-transmitter, single-disease theories of mental disease as opposed to disordered balance of homeostatic control, a problem made more difficult by non-specificity of action of drugs used as probes for transmitter systems. Nevertheless, it is apparent that it is becoming possible to formulate hypotheses which can be investigated by reasonable experimental techniques.

J. A. SIMPSON

THE AFRICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY Editor in Chief John C. Ebie. Literained Press: Lagos.

The Association of Psychiatrists in Africa is a small but vigorous group transcending national boundaries. Though their scientific orientation is European, they are eclectic in their approach to indigenous medicine, which is often of particular relevance in psychiatry. It is a mark of their confidence in the future that they have launched at this time a new journal. The first article is by the late Sir Aubrey Lewis on the first Pan-African Psychiatric Congress held in Nigeria.

The *Journal*, published in English and French from Lagos, Nigeria, is well produced and has got off to a good start. All will wish it a successful future.

J. A. SIMPSON

NOTICES

WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD International Congress on Transcultural Psychiatry. University of Bradford, 27-31 July 1976. Main theme: 'Migration and its ensuing social and psychological consequences'. Details from Conference Secretariat, International Congress on Transcultural Psychiatry, Room N2, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP, England.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: 'COMPUTER ASSISTED TOMOGRAPHY IN NONTUMORAL DISEASES OF BRAIN, SPINAL CORD, AND EYE' Sponsored by National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, 12-15 October 1976, Clinical Centre, NIH. Topics: physics, technology, and clinical aspects of transmission and emission computer assisted tomography. Deadline for abstracts: 1 August 1976. Details from Dr Giovanni Di Chiro, National Institutes of Health, Section on Neuro-radiology, Clinical Center, Room 2D13, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRIC SURGERY This Society was officially founded at the IVth World Congress of Psychiatric Surgery in Madrid on 9 September 1975. The President is Dr S. Obrador (Madrid) and the Secretary-general Dr J. Siegfried (Zürich). Details of membership may be obtained from Professor J. Siegfried, Neurochirurgische Universitätsklinik, Kantonsspital, CH-8091 Zürich, Switzerland.