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well-grounded in the broadly based experimental approach of the late Dr Harold Wolff.

Behavioural science is viewed by the authors as part of human ecology. They doubt whether a full understanding of molecular biology can ever lead to an appreciation of man's conduct and motivations. Detailed discussion is provided on the question of human adaptation to all manner of environmental stresses. Healthy living and the preventive approach regarding illness are emphasized.

Much useful information is presented on the subject of physiological reactions to stress—formerly a rather 'soft' area known as psychosomatic medicine. In this regard, the old mind-body, stimulus-response pattern is swept away in favour of a much more sophisticated pattern of multifactorial aetiology. Stress is appropriately evaluated in terms of an individual's perception of a situation rather than by an objective criterion. The female emancipation of recent years entails altered man-woman relationships, itself a possible source of stress as a factor in the production of new illness patterns.

Dr Wolf and Miss Goodell have produced a thoughtful, modern text on behavioural science applied to clinical problems. Their book can be confidently recommended to medical undergraduates as well as to students of psychology and medical sociology.

A. BALFOUR SCLARE

LA MALADIE DE PICK By R. Tissot, J. Constantinidis, and J. Richard. (Pp. 122; illustrated; price not quoted.) Masson: Paris. 1975.

This monograph is a detailed, though pedestrian analysis of 32 cases gleaned over half a century from a total of 3000 necropsies performed upon former mental patients. Having expended so much effort on the work it is unfortunate that the authors do nothing more than substantiate facts already known to both clinicians and pathologists. They have classified their cases by histological techniques into three groups of approximately equal sizes, commenting that histological appearances relate only in the broadest terms to clinical features, and especially to mental function. Thus, diagnosis remains a matter for the pathologist. The first group shows prominent atrophy of the temporal lobe with degenerative cortical changes typified by the presence of argyrophil bodies, gliosis, and neuronal ballooning. The second exhibits frontal atrophy with gliosis and neuronal swelling, but no argyrophil plaques. The third group has either temporal or frontal atrophy but show gliosis only. In all cases there is degeneration

of underlying white matter and changes in the basal ganglia too. It is concluded that the disorder is genetically determined and that, whereas gene penetrance is dominant in the first group identified, it is recessive in the other two. This slim volume, which is printed in French, is unlikely to be of interest to any, except those pathologists who wish to brush up the medical aspects of their knowledge of this language.

MICHAEL R. BOND

INFORMATION AND SKILL By D. Legge and P. J. Barber (Pp. 144; illustrated; 80p.) Methuen: London. 1976. LEARNING AND REINFORCEMENT By S. Walker (Pp. 144; illustrated; 80p.) Methuen: London, 1976. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY, THEORY, AND THERAPY By D. Mackay (Pp. 144; 80p.) Methuen: London. 1976.

These three books vary widely both in subject matter and quality, dealing with human experimental psychology, with the overlap between animal and human psychology, and with human clinical psychology respectively. On the plus side, the book by Legge and Barber covers extremely well some of the most complex areas of modern experimental psychology, and manages to make information theory interesting and understandable. Similarly, Walker's treatment of learning and reinforcement provides a powerful support for modern behaviourist psychology both methodologically and as a conceptual guide for further research—particularly in the clinical field where behaviourist therapies are becoming more powerful. However, on the negative side, Mackay in his treatment of clinical psychology manages to obscure still further the already obscure topic of clinical psychology and the fog in which the reader finds himself is not helped by Mackay's failure to attempt to delimit the subject area of clinical psychology until page 60 (in a book of 142 pages, including index). This is definitely not a book to recommend to serious students of clinical psychology, although the introductory chapters on psychiatric classification could be of use to undergraduates in psychology.

D. NEIL BROOKS

NOTICE

From Portland, Oregon, comes the *Convulsive Therapy Bulletin with Tardive Dyskinesia Notes*. It is offered free to members of the International Psychiatric Association for the Advancement of Electrotherapy and others may subscribe (\$10.00) by writing to the Editor, P. H. Blachly, M.D., Department of Psychiatry—Research, University of Oregon Health Services Center, Portland, Or. 97201, USA.