a demand for conformity which is basically intolerant and totalitarian. Fortunately, it appears that as described here (most check-lists contain at least 30 items, and some over 80) the whole exercise of assessment and behaviour modification is so time-consuming that the dangers of 1984 are unlikely to be realised on a large scale.

JOHN WILSON

**Book reviews**


This is the first of two volumes published under the auspices of The Society of Biological Psychiatry, with the aim of providing authoritative reviews of a series of biological topics of particular importance for psychiatry. This volume deals with neurophysiological topics (including excellent accounts of hemispheric specialisation by David Galin and of evoked potentials by Charles Shagass), with drive and motivation (including an important chapter by James Olds), and with levels of consciousness. The contributions are of high quality and this volume will be a valuable acquisition to any neurological or psychiatric library.

J. L. GIBBONS


The second volume of this two-volume set contains further detailed reviews of biological topics important for psychiatry. The authors are experienced research workers, and the reviews are, in general, extensive and scholarly. There are four main themes in this volume: Biochemical Correlates of Behaviour; Psychopharmacology; Biology of Psychosomatic Illness; Integration. There are, for example, lucid accounts of the genetics of schizophrenia and of affective psychosis, as well as of the biochemistry of these two disorders. The editors admit that they have been selective in their choice of topics, but they have chosen well. Like the first volume, the second is beautifully produced and well worth a place on a library shelf.

J. L. GIBBONS

**Modern Synopsis of Psychiatry**


This large book, with more than 1300 pages, is a shortened and modified version of a much larger two-volume work with more than 2500 pages and well over 200 authors, some of them very eminent indeed. The larger work has been criticised for being too comprehensive, for containing too much irrelevant material. The synopsis suffers from the same defect, if to a lesser degree, and it is unfortunate that the editors were not more ruthless in deleting fringe material. The book has been produced with medical students in mind. Will they not be put off by its length? Should they be expected to read...