

a long chapter on involuntional melancholia? Or sections on politics, or the creative process or the women's movement?

Nevertheless there is a great deal of relevant material, some of it not otherwise easily accessible to the student who confines himself to textbooks. The psychiatric syndromes, including those of childhood, are presented in detail without theoretical bias. There are also long accounts of treatment, in which drug treatment is adequately covered.

J. L. GIBBONS

Innovative Medical-Psychiatric Therapies By R. M. Suinn and R. G. Weigel. (Pp. 297; illustrated; £12.25.) University Park Press: Baltimore. 1976.

This volume consists of a selection of 21 scientific papers reprinted from mainly American psychiatric and medical journals which are readily available in most good libraries. The papers span a period from 1938 to 1970 but 10 of them were published in 1967 and 1968.

It is certainly true that most papers accurately reflect psychiatric thoughts at the time that they were conceived and provide the reviewer with a strong *déjà vu* experience. Whether most of them can truly be called 'innovative' is very debatable and very few of them could be described as 'key' papers. It is of interest that none of them are currently on the recommended reading list of the Royal College of Psychiatrists for postgraduate students and also their views are generally too dated to be much use as examples of current therapy in psychiatry for non-specialist consumption.

While individual papers are certainly of interest, anyone with access to an adequate library could prepare his own compatible selection of key papers at approximately half the cost of this volume. As a clinical tutor with responsibility for selecting material for a psychiatric library I could not feel that this volume would add any new information and justify its cost in these times of poor sterling exchange.

J. I. EVANS

Recent Advances in Clinical Psychiatry: No. 2 By K. Granville-Grossman. (Pp. 358; illustrated; £12.00.) Churchill-Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1976.

The first volume in this series was a tour-de-force by Dr. Granville-Grossman. It amounted to a whole series of authoritative reviews of recent work in psychiatry. For the second volume Dr. Granville-Grossman has confined himself to the editorial chair, entrusting the reviews to experts in each field.

Inevitably the unity of style of the first volume is absent. But both the experts and the topics are well chosen. The topics include clinical psychopharmacology (M. Lader), the depressions and neuroses of later life (D. W. K. Kay), social factors in mental illness (J. Grad de Alarçon), marital breakdown (S. Crown). Psychology, behaviour therapy, 'psychosurgery', epilepsy, and child psychiatry are also represented.

The book can be most warmly recommended. It is obviously essential reading for all postgraduate trainees in psychiatry. In addition I recommend that every psychiatrist should have a copy because, however experienced and however well-read, he cannot fail to learn a great deal from it.

J. L. GIBBONS

Psychological Medicine—An Introduction to Psychiatry By Desmond Curran, Maurice Partridge, and Peter Storey. (Pp. 444; £5.75.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1976.

Despite an avalanche of paperback competitors, this book seems to have held firm over more than 30 years of publication. The reasons are not hard to find; it is balanced and sensible, practical rather than philosophical, and one of the authors at least has an enviable gift for apposite analogy and felicitous phrasemaking.

Criticisms, naturally, reflect a personal bias. This reviewer would like to see changes in the sections on psychosomatic medicine, which is short rather than weak; on Psychotherapy in which an infusion of ideas from some of the more recent thinking on personality change and counselling would be invigorating; and on Personality Disorders

in which a brave but not wholly successful attempt has been made to grasp a formidable conceptual nettle.

Having said this, the book remains a reasonably priced and more than adequate introduction to psychiatry, and can be recommended with little hesitation to medical students and even junior postgraduates.

A. C. MACFIE

Hormones, Behaviour and Psychopathology Edited by E. J. Sachar (Pp. 307; illustrated; \$27.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1976.

Despite many biochemical hypotheses about the aetiology of psychiatric disorders there are few, if any, hard facts. It has been a salutary experience for researchers to discover, over the years, the many pitfalls, such as lack of homogeneity of the clinical samples and variables *e.g.* physical activity and psychological stress. This book, which reports the proceedings of a meeting of the American Psychopathological Association in March 1975, is distinctly encouraging in that the contributors are clearly aware of the complexities of the biological systems they are dealing with, and are cautious in interpreting findings. Topics include hormonal influence on memory processes, anti-androgen therapy of sex offenders, psychoneuroendocrinology of anorexia nervosa, neuroendocrine regulation in affective disorders, and serum prolactin levels as a possible measure of brain dopamine receptor activity in schizophrenia. Much of what is reported may eventually prove irrelevant but it is a useful review of current knowledge of endocrine aspects of psychiatric disease.

J. A. G. WATT

Obsessional States Edited by H. R. Beech. (Pp. 352; £3.60.) Methuen University Paperbacks: London. 1976.

This book is a reissue in softcover of the 1974 hardback first edition. It is edited by a clinical psychologist, the fourteen contributors being either psychologists or psychiatrists. There are three parts to the book dealing with 'Clinical and Psychometric Descriptions', including a

lengthy introduction which is in part a summary, 'Theory and Experiment', and 'Therapeutic Approaches'. Although the editor states he has urged contributors to be 'speculative within the limits of whatever information of a hard kind was available', the book has been edited so well that the 12 chapters are complementary.

The editor hopes that the contributors 'will help clinicians and researchers alike to clarify their ideas about these puzzling abnormalities'. In so far as they illustrate the many contradictions of the obsessional states and act as an excellent and readable reference book on the subject, they have entirely succeeded. In view of the price reduction in two years, consequent on the change of format, this book is recommended buying for anyone interested in this fascinating condition.

P. W. KERSHAW

Histological Processing for the Neural Sciences By E. La Bossiere and M. Glickstein. (Pp. viii+90; illustrated; \$7.50.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois, 1976.

This short manual stems from a psychology research laboratory, and deals mainly with methods of perfusion fixation, embedding techniques, and stains used in the study of degeneration and regeneration in the nervous system of small mammals. It has little to offer technicians in a large neuropathology laboratory dealing with human as well as animal material; the methods detailed are well known and available in larger routine texts. The authors, however, have developed slight modifications of their own, and these could be useful to the worker having difficulty with the Nauta or Golgi-Cox techniques, for example. Workers embarking on tract degeneration studies would find the compilation of stains useful, and could ignore those aspects of the sectioning and embedding techniques of which they did not approve.

D. G. F. HARRIMAN

Research in Neurosis On the Origin of Schizophrenic Psychoses Edited by H. M. van Praag. (Pp. 206 and 222; illustrated; price not stated.) Bohn, Scheltema and Holkema: Utrecht, and De Erven Bohn BV: Amsterdam, 1976, 1975.

These volumes consist of 14 and 13 papers respectively given at congresses in Amsterdam in 1974 and 1975. Each

is introduced by the editor who, in one case, presents his own review of the conceptual and practical problems facing those interested in the nature and treatment of schizophrenia, and in the other provides a brief commentary only which outlines the problems to be discussed. The volume about schizophrenia contains contributions dealing with genetics and sociocultural analysis of our understanding of schizophrenia; it pays particular attention to biochemical theories, and there is a germinal paper by Professor R. E. Kendal which underlines basic problems in the evaluation and codification of symptoms which bedevil the achievement of a worldwide or even nationwide agreement regarding diagnosis. In dealing with neurosis several aspects are touched upon including epidemiological studies, the possible role of child development and environment in the development of neurosis in adult life, and the value of studies of experimental neurosis in animals. Physiological and biochemical studies carried out on neurotic patients are discussed, and methods of treatment are evaluated in general terms. Although the topics discussed in each of these books have been the subject of earlier publications and, therefore, are to be found elsewhere, it is convenient to have the views of a group of experts condensed into two small books each with just over 200 pages. They will be of interest and value to postgraduates studying for higher qualifications in psychiatry. They will also appeal to clinical psychiatrists with a general interest, though they are perhaps of less use to research workers in view of the limited coverage of any single topic.

M. R. BOND

The Problem-Oriented Psychiatric Index and Treatment Plans By M. J. Meldman, F. McFarland, and E. Johnson. (Pp. 202; £6.10.) C. V. Mosby Company: St. Louis, 1976.

Reviewing this publication is rather like reviewing a telephone directory. It is a valiant attempt to improve the documentation of psychiatric case records, and the authors try to capture the individual interpersonal aspects of their patients with greater enthusiasm than is usually the case in classification systems. Many pages are devoted to

lists of elements of assessment or treatment though operational definitions are not given and one is left with the usual doubts about validity and reliability.

This will not be a book for the general reader but those interested in psychiatric case records and the problems of finding a balance between research and clinical requirements should find it worthy of some consideration.

A. C. MACE

Notices

Head Injuries Symposium

Glasgow, Scotland 20-21 October 1977

Two day International Symposium on management of mild and severe head injuries, on assessment of coma, severity of injury and of disability, and on problems of rehabilitation and prognosis.

Details from the Honorary Secretary, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, 242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 3SR, or from Professor Bryan Jennett, Institute of Neurological Sciences, Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, G51 5RT.

Glossary of Antiepileptic Drugs

The third edition of the International Glossary of Anticonvulsant and Antiepileptic Drugs is ready for distribution. It has been prepared under the auspices of Epilepsy International, as one of the joint activities of the International League against Epilepsy and the International Bureau for Epilepsy. The third edition follows the format of previous editions and gives the names and proprietary preparations of each manufacturer of drugs commonly used for epilepsy in major nations of the world. Each drug is cross-referenced to the index of manufacturers and distributors where 222 names and addresses are listed alphabetically. The listing has so enlarged that a loose leaf system is no longer practical and the volume is spiral bound.

Copies may be obtained by writing to the Epilepsy Foundation of America, c/o Dr J. Rivera, Suite 406, 1828 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 USA. Through the kindness of a number of contributors this glossary is available at no charge.

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