

Psycholinguistics Series 1. Developmental and Pathological Edited by John Morton and John C. Marshall. (Pp. vii+160; £4.95.) Paul Elek (Scientific Books) Ltd: London. 1977.

This is a collection of four papers dealing with particular aspects of psycholinguistics and is a welcome addition to the growing literature on the subject. The dust cover tells us that like its intended successors in the series, the book is aimed at students in psycholinguistics, linguistics, psychology, speech pathology, neurology, and computer science. In this particular case the emphasis is on linguistic and psychological studies: I could find nothing remotely connected with computer science. We are also told that the book will 'look at a particular theme' but what this theme is is never revealed: three out of the four papers deal with child language (from different perspectives) but this hardly constitutes a theme. The preface, which I found to be all too brief, would have been the place to elaborate on the point about a theme. It would also have been the place to justify the view held by the editors that an aim of the series is to 'widen the definition and application of psycholinguistics'. If widening the definition means going back to the pre-1960 days, then heaven help us!

Despite these initial misgivings, I found the book to be in certain respects an interesting summary of what psycholinguistics has achieved and of where it can reasonably be said to be going. Eve Clarke begins with a lengthy and valuable paper 'First language acquisition' which summarises research findings mainly between 1968 and 1973. Despite its title, this is not an introduction to the subject but something for those already conversant with linguistic studies of child language. She concentrates on English-learning children. David Bloor's paper 'The regulatory function of language' is a critical assessment of Luria's thesis of language regulating a child's behaviour in the light of American replications of the original experiments. Bloor also discusses Wozniak's attempts to unravel the reasons for the discrepancies between the Soviet and American results and concludes with a statement of his own theory, the capacity or limited channel capacity theory. Since Bloor's theory is original, this particular paper should be of con-

siderable interest to psycholinguists and psychologists concerned with Soviet developmental work.

The paper by Joanna Ryan 'The silence of stupidity' discusses research in the area of management and education of subnormal children with special reference to language development. She makes here some timely and trenchant remarks about certain psychological studies of subnormality. This is a compassionate account of what has been done and what still needs to be done for the subnormal child's linguistic development, and as such it could be read with benefit by academics and teachers who deal with these types of children. John Marshall's paper 'Disorders in the expression of language' is both an introduction to the subject of neurologically induced disorders (it is written primarily with the linguist in mind) and also an exposition of his own theory which would account cogently for the data accumulated in language pathology studies over the last century and more.

Altogether, this is a useful set of papers, well printed (there are the occasional misprints but nothing serious) and reasonably priced. Although not everyone in psycholinguistics may find themselves drawn to consider each paper in detail, the range and discussion of the subject matter make it a book which ought to find its way into every University and NHS Library. The specialist will want his own copy.

M. K. C. MACMAHON

Neurophysiologic Aspects of Rehabilitation Medicine Edited by A. A. Buerger and J. S. Tobis. (Pp. 335; illustrated; \$27.50.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1976.

In their foreword the editors claim that this book will help to improve the understanding of patients with chronic neurological disease by a study of recent advances in neurophysiology. The book is divided into three sections—the control of motion, the consequences of lesions in the spinal cord and peripheral nervous system, and the consequences of lesions in the higher nervous system. Herman and his colleagues review the feedback control of postural reaction and draw attention to the importance of the relevant passive properties of muscle. Tegler and his group present a

good account of recent work on the pyramidal system. Kottke's chapter on Facilitation and Inhibition contains some useful information on the rationale of the physiotherapy of neurological lesion, and Lynch reviews some of the recent work on the basis of recovery of brain damage. However, the editors deliberately confined themselves only to motor aspects of rehabilitation, and this in my view severely limits its value. In fact, it is difficult to imagine where this work would help. Neurologists will be familiar with most of the material; physicians involved in planning rehabilitation will not find a coherent basis on which to relate neurophysiology to treatment programmes or methods of assessment. The book reads too much as a series of short review articles.

There is an undoubted place for an up-to-date text—relating not only to work on motor systems but also on sensory physiology, pain mechanisms and the increasing realisation of the plasticity of the central nervous system in the problems of patients with neurological disease. This book hardly begins to fulfil such a need.

C. B. WYNN PARSONS

Gilles de la Tourette's Syndrome Volume 1. Edited by F. S. Abuzzeh and F. O. Anderson. (Pp. 223; Price not stated.) University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis. 1976.

To a British neurologist it may seem remarkable that this is to be the first of a projected series of publications on Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome; remarkable, as there is widespread doubt as to whether or not this syndrome is an entity. The 29 previously unpublished case reports, the scanty pathologic data, and the theories on aetiology do not suggest that it has an organic basis. A linking factor between the cases is the uniformly satisfactory response to haloperidol. Haloperidol is widely used in the treatment of nonspecific hyperactive psychotic states but the sceptic must remember that among the overdosage effects are those of basal ganglia dysfunction.

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