

Mechanism and Management of Headache Third Edition By J. W. Lance. (Pp. 263; illustrated; £8.95.) Butterworths: London, 1978.

Many readers will be familiar with one of the earlier editions of *Mechanism and Management of Headache*, and the publication of a third edition within 10 years is ample evidence of its popularity and of the developments in this field.

Sufferers from headache form a large part of any neurologist's practice and the difficult patients with refractory symptoms reflect the inadequacy of management at every level of medical care.

That this book should have up-to-date data on biochemistry, experimental pathology, and the newest investigative methods goes without saying. More important are the brief accounts of the various fashions of treatment and their value, the current theories of causation, and the medical old wives tales which are so much a part of headache and its management.

I. T. DRAPER

Amnesia Second edition Edited by C. W. M. Whitty and O. L. Zangwill. (Pp. 306; £9.50.) Butterworths: London, 1977.

The editors have gathered a distinguished group of British authorities in the field of amnesia—neurologists, psychiatrists, and psychologists—to attempt to produce an updated, comprehensive but provocative account of this topic. The foreword concedes that we know little of the physiological basis for memory, but one unfortunate omission from the list of contributors must be a neurochemist to comment upon the molecular basis of memory and the possible role of neurotransmitters in therapy.

The book begins with an account of experimental studies in the human of the organic amnesic syndrome. Subsequent chapters offer useful accounts of transient and persistent abnormalities of memory, including transient global amnesia, traumatic amnesia, and temporal lobe amnesia. Comment is made upon memory disorders associated with electroconvulsive therapy. The neuropathology of the amnesic states is discussed in a most helpful chapter by Brierley; neuroanatomical aspects are touched upon, but the author reminds us that precise localisation is probably

an unrealistic goal. Psychogenic memory loss is then dealt with and this is followed by a brief account by Feldman of amnesia from a psychoanalyst's viewpoint. The book ends with an account of medicolegal aspects of amnesia. The reference list is comprehensive. The index unfortunately mingles topics with authors—the latter predominating—but is adequate. This book is recommended to those who have a clinical interest in disorders of higher cerebral function.

W. F. DURWARD

Neurophysics By Alwyn C. Scott. (Pp. xii+340; illustrated; £18.75, \$31.70.) John Wiley and Sons: New York, 1977.

This is a severely mathematical book about the nerve membrane, neuronal conduction, and the properties of neural networks. It is definitely for physical scientists, engineers, and applied mathematicians. Accordingly, a selective account of the biophysical aspects of physiological preparations has been included, there is plenty of relevant history, and a dash of (wisely segregated) philosophy. Equally, there is a continuing attempt to clarify what the mathematician is about in his approach to explain the phenomena of neural activity—any interested biologist who is not intimidated by the mathematical biophysics may well find this component of the book to be unusual and illuminating.

The main contents are: non-linear partial differential equations (in the description of nerve fibre currents), the active nerve membrane, the nerve fibre (axonal transmission), stability (of propagation) and threshold (of a space-clamped membrane), neural networks (Hebb, Perceptron, reverberatory nets, spatial organisation), interactions on the "multiplex neuron." This last section, of broad interest, explores some aspects of the recent view of the dendrite as possibly presynaptic, transmitting to other neurones through dendrodendritic synapses and simultaneously acting within many electrotonic pathways; the discussion focuses on ways in which pulses could interact while propagating. I cannot say that I found the final chapter on "Knowledge of the mind" particularly mature or apposite.

I noticed few mistakes or errors. There are some 500 references.

B. MCA. SAYERS

Orbit Roentgenology Edited by Peter H. Arger. (Pp. 273; illustrated; £33.85/\$61.00.) John Wiley and Sons: New York, 1977.

This book brings together the various radiological methods of investigation available for orbital examination, and this has been achieved by the different authors with remarkably little redundancy. Each chapter begins with a description of the technique and of normal appearances, before possible abnormalities are discussed. The illustrations are of high quality and well labelled. The standard of production is excellent. My main criticism is that the chapter on endocrine orbital disease is out of place in this book.

Taken as a whole this is an excellent and comprehensive account of the subject but it must inevitably be compared with Glyn Lloyd's *Radiology of the Orbit* (1975). Although the presentation is different, many of the chapters give information similar to that found in Lloyd's work. More emphasis has been given to anatomy, congenital and developmental abnormalities, and to the external carotid artery supply to the orbit. The chapter on computed tomography is, of course, more up-to-date and contains more illustrations. Lloyd's book at a third of the price has not been superseded for the average x-ray department but this new volume is recommended to those with a special interest in the field.

P. MACPHERSON

Notice

A Symposium on Computerised Tomography of the Brain, organised under the guidance of the University of Bordeaux II and INSERM (the National Institute of Health and Medical Research), will be held in Bordeaux from 20-22 September 1979. For further details please write to: Secretariat du Pr. J. M. Caille, Service de Neuro-radiologie, Hôpital Pellegrin Tripode, 33076 Bordeaux, France.