

function as an instructional text. The systematic description of various disease processes and their interpretation is augmented by useful summary lists of particular causes. The critical choice of the method of investigation is also discussed and summarised in the light of the development of CAT scanning. The standard of radiographic reproduction is of high quality, and the list of references is extensive.

These books were a pleasure to review and amply justify the reputation of the Neuroradiological Department of the Toronto Children's Hospital. They will be a standard reference for some time, and are highly recommended as a text for students of radiology, as a stimulus and guide to general radiologists, and as essential reading for neuroradiologists, paediatric radiologists, and clinicians concerned in the investigation of disease of the nervous system in childhood.

KENNETH GROSSART

Topics in Child Neurology Edited by Michael E. Blaw, Isabelle Rapin, and Marcel Kinsbourne. (Pp. 343; illustrated; £17.50.) Spectrum Publications: New York and London. 1978.

This volume, together with *Brain Dysfunction in Infantile Febrile Convulsions* (previously reviewed in these columns), contains the major papers presented at the First International Congress of Child Neurology in Toronto in 1975. Five topics are studied in some depth, although not comprehensively.

The section on neonatal neurology includes a masterly plan for the management of suspect inherited metabolic disease of the newborn, which is true preventative neurology and invites the much wider audience of paediatricians to pay heed to it. Temporal lobe epilepsy in childhood has Dr Rasmussen and Dr Andermann from Montreal discussing the neurosurgical treatment and the selection and investigation of cases. Adjacent to this section is an all too brief chapter on the Lennox-Gastaut syndrome by Gastaut himself. The section on language and learning disabilities contains beautifully clear papers by Isabelle Rapin on language and Martha Denckla on dyslexia. I also enjoyed Maureen Dennis on hemisphere functions and the role of the corpus callosum.

The subject of hyperactivity is dealt with by several authors, and also forms the major portion of the final section. Those who get hot under the collar when arguing the pros and cons of chemotherapy and psychosurgery in childhood behaviour disorder should read the chapter on stereotaxic amygdalotomy by Narabayashi, and those on hyperactivity and behaviour-changing therapies by Marcel Kinsbourne.

After reading this book one is left with the strong feeling that although advances in the neurosciences are taking place at breathtaking speed, the needs of the child with a disordered brain are most unevenly met, and that prognosis must greatly depend on where the family happens to live.

J. B. P. STEPHENSON

The Benzodiazepines: Use, Overuse, Misuse, Abuse By John Marks. (Pp. 111; £4.95.) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1978.

This short, elegantly produced, and clearly written book is a review of the world literature on benzodiazepine abuse. Animal and human experiments together with clinical reports show that, as with most current sedatives and tranquillisers, dependence can occur if large doses are given for long periods. Clinically, benzodiazepine dependence resembles barbiturate dependence but occurs in only one in five million cases. Such cases are usually multiple drug abusers or alcoholics. Dr Marks concludes that the risk is so small that no increase in controls is necessary.

I. M. INGRAM

Psychiatric Nursing: Theory and Application Edited by L. A. Joel and D. L. Collins. (Pp. x+421; illustrated; £11.20.) McGraw-Hill: New York and London. 1978.

The role of the psychiatric nurse has been changing in recent years, with an increasing involvement of the nurse in work in the community, and with the development of an increasing range of clinical skills involving both assessment and treatment of patients and, indeed, of clients. This text, by five American

nurses (four of them holding academic appointments) sets out to provide theoretical background as well as information for the various types of clinical practice of psychiatric nursing in the USA. It is not for the reviewer to say how useful this book will be for British nurses, but it sets out a reasonable view of the nurse's many functions, and it makes interesting reading for psychiatrists.

J. L. GIBBONS

Manual of Neurological Nursing By Nancy Swift and Robert M. Mabel. (Pp. 201; illustrated; \$7.95.) Little, Brown and Co: Boston. 1978.

This is a useful little book for nurses taking a training course in neurological or neurosurgical nursing, as a short account of the main categories of neurological disease and the observations required to be made by the nursing staff. There is less emphasis on nursing procedures, but sufficient to remind the nurse trained in general principles. The chapter on assessment of conscious level is very clear. Nurses new to neurological observation will find it helpful. The chapter on neuropsychology and habilitation offers useful advice.

P. J. NAYLOR

Year Book of Psychiatry and Applied Mental Health 1978 Edited by D. X. Freedman. (Pp. 438; £24.50.) Year Book Medical Publishers: Chicago. 1978.

The current volume of this well-known series surveys the literature on psychiatry and related disciplines up to July 1977. There is a clear summary of each paper cited, with occasional linking commentaries by a group of distinguished American psychiatrists. The coverage of general psychiatry and of child psychiatry is extensive. The same is true of psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy, but some other important topics receive only token attention. Nevertheless the book is an excellent guide to recent psychiatric literature and it should be in every psychiatric library.

J. L. GIBBONS

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