

referred to over and over again by practical electron microscopists. The functional anatomy of myelin and the processes of myelination are comprehensively treated with comparisons between central and peripheral myelin. The authors' clear focus on controversy is presented nowhere better than in the section on neuroglia where, among many other items, the origins of microglia and phagocytes are identified as worthy of further scrutiny and the completely inscrutable tanyocytes remain so.

This well indexed book will be in constant demand when added to the libraries of EM units.

DAVID DOYLE

Pathogenesis and Treatment of Headache Edited by Otto Appenzeller. (Pp. 217; illustrated; £13.50.) SP Medical and Scientific Books: London. 1977.

When yet another book is devoted to headache, the neurological bibliophile needs some convincing reason to scrutinise its contents. When it contains the distillate of the collected experience of such authorities as Arnold Friedman, Earl Walker, Donald Dalessio, John Graham, and Seymour Diamond the reader's appetite is whetted.

Unfortunately, the invaluable contributions from these worthies is not uniformly maintained. The level of the short clinically orientated essays varies from the asnerine to the erudite. The introduction claims that the aim is to provide "an up-to-date review of the pathogenesis and treatment for headache". It also implies that the chapters were the text for some unspecified "course". This may explain the poor standard of writing in some sections which underlines the common error of transposing the spoken to the written word.

The result is seen in many loose and woolly statements, in the uncritical admixture of fact and speculation, and in places in the unwarranted acceptance of unproven hypotheses. Is the Ramsay Hunt syndrome due to herpes of the geniculate ganglion? Are "positive X-ray findings" extremely helpful in the diagnosis of sinusitis? And are tricyclic antidepressant drugs the treatment of choice in muscle contraction headache?

Despite these objections, many of which could be overcome by stricter

editorial penmanship, Dr Appenzeller's book is a success. He has assembled a collection of readable essays which cover a wide area of headache and facial pain, and which, being written by clinicians, ring true to our everyday practice. One of Kipling's better maxims was "outside of his art an artist must never dream". Since the medical scientist has not yet solved the many mysteries of migraine, there is plenty of scope for the clinician's art; and perhaps his dreams may illumine the path of the scientist, or at least point him in the right direction.

Dr Appenzeller's book is well produced with clear illustrations. It is certainly a stimulating and provocative read for a quiet weekend.

J. M. S. PEARCE

Mechanismen der Gedächtnisbildung (Mechanisms of memory formation) By Tilmann Ott. (Pp. 135; illustrated; Dm 39.00.) Veb Gustav Fischer Verlag: Jena. 1977.

This is the latest volume in a series of East German monographs devoted to Brain and Behaviour Research. It contains the results of a series of animal experiments on long-term memory carried out with well established laboratory techniques of behavioural physiology and pharmacology. On the basis of his findings the author argues in favour of a triadic process of "consolidation" associated with molecular and neuronal mechanisms for which there are three corresponding mnemonic stages. The model is further developed to elaborate on the structural and functional basis of two types of engram. The results are clearly presented and would appear to call for replication.

MICHAEL SHEPHERD

Research to Practice in Mental Retardation Volume I—Care and Intervention Edited by Peter Mittler. (Pp. 526; \$24.50.) University Park Press: Baltimore. 1977.

Subtitled *Care and Intervention* this is the first three volumes of the Proceedings of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency at their 1976 Congress. The book features 58 contributions and includes a 15 page list of papers given, but unpublished.

In the preface, Professor Mittler states his intention to focus on developments of service provision emphasising multidisciplinary treatment, provision of community and residential services and the evaluation of these, so that the needs of the mentally handicapped are met. On the whole he succeeds in this aim although the book—like so many Proceedings—suffers from the varying standard of contributions.

Altogether the book gives a competent survey of current practice although psychiatric services are disposed of in 27 pages. It represents a useful reference work and, in view of its price, will be found principally on the shelves of departmental libraries. There is a good author and a good subject index.

RONALD MACGILLIVRAI

The Effects of Noise on Hearing Edited by Donald Henderson, Roger Hamernik, Darshan S. Donsanjh, and John H. Mills. (Pp. 579; illustrated; \$36.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1977.

Limitations of space make it impossible to review many books submitted to the Editor, and some must be rejected as too esoteric. This book is of limited interest to most readers of the Journal but should be brought to the attention of the growing number of neurologists with an interest in auditory function. Based on a symposium, it is a collection of critical essays on the establishment of criteria for relating hearing loss to environmental noise.

J. A. SIMPSON

Notice

1978 Congress of the International Society of Psychiatric Surgery

Papers are invited for the 1978 Congress of the International Society of Psychiatric Surgery to be held at Pine Manor College, Brookline, Massachusetts, USA from 21 to 26 August 1978. The official topic is "Alterations in Brain Function: neurochemical aspects of stimulation and ablation". The last date for the receipt of papers is 1 May 1978, and these should be sent to E. R. Hitchcock, Department of Surgical Neurology, Western General Hospital, Crewe Road, Edinburgh, Scotland.