The Paralysed Patient By Robert Roaf and Leonard J. Hodkinson. (Pp. 293; illustrated; £6.75.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford. 1977.

This well set out book encompasses most forms of paralysis, and should appeal to nurses, medical social workers, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists working in general hospitals and rehabilitation centres, and those in training in specialised centres for the paralysed. The authors are the recently retired distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in Liverpool, and a senior nurse, and they have mentioned briefly the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of most forms of paralysis, but their aim has been to concentrate on treatment. The diagrams and figures are clear and helpful although several of the photographs show extreme and grotesque paralysis. Indeed there could have been more stress on partial paralyzing disorders and on recovering lesions, whether due to trauma or disease; otherwise the reader may not appreciate that "paralysis" may be partial (paresis), and quite often may recover either fully or partially. The best sections are on peripheral nerve and on spinal cord lesions. A larger section on spina bifida would have been valuable. Provision of a list of references for further reading, and correction of a number of typographical errors may be left to a subsequent edition of what should prove to be an important addition to texts for those working in the "allied health professions". I would conclude by saying that all doctors treating paralysed patients would find some new and attractively presented information in this volume.

PHILLIP HARRIS

Psychopharmacology—from Theory to Practice Edited by Jack D. Barchas, Philip A. Berger, Roland D. Ciaranello, and Glen R. Elliott. (Pp. 557; illustrated; £7.50.) Oxford University Press: Oxford. 1977.

This book is the conjoint effort of over 20 contributors from Stanford University. It sets out to cover a wide range of topics in psychopharmacology, from the known facts of neuroregulators and the influence of drugs on these mechanisms to the use of psychotropic drugs in clinical practice. In the former there are glaring omissions, there is only a trivial explanation of the mode

of action of the antidepressant drugs, and only passing reference to neuronal re-uptake mechanisms for neurotransmitters. However, the treatment section is comprehensive, and the chapter on schizophrenia excellent. Whenever drugs are used to achieve central changes, either therapeutic or psychedelic, this book is likely to discuss them. For the psychiatrist with time to read it is to be recommended, but for the student the verbosity might be irritating, and an abridged version would be welcomed.

DONALD ECCLESTON

Child Mental Health and Psychosocial Development Report of a WHO Expert Committee. (Pp. 71; Sw frs 7.) World Health Organisation: Geneva. 1977.

"Childhood mental health is a major public health and social concern for all countries. . . . Between 5 and 15% of all children aged 3-15 are affected by persistent and socially handicapping mental disorders." This was the starting point for a WHO multidisciplinary Expert Committee which, in a compact report, has summarised existing knowledge about the causation, manifestations, and treatment of childhood emotional disorders. The presentation is clear and concise but rather misleadingly dogmatic, especially when the references quoted are exclusively those of WHO—surely a peculiarly self-defeating policy! The concluding section makes a brave attempt to outline a rational programme of preventive child psychiatry, splendid in conception but rather woolly in detail. Nevertheless, this is an important statement on health policy which puts child psychiatric considerations firmly on the world health map, besides indicating constructive measures which should be introduced by WHO itself.

F. H. STONE

Developments in Psychiatric Research Edited by J. M. Tanner. (Pp. x+294; illustrated; £7.95.) Hodder and Stoughton: London. 1977.

In 1949 Sir Geoffrey Vickers became chairman of the Research Committee of the newly founded Mental Health Research Fund, now the Mental Health Foundation. A series of annual lectures, dealing with important topics

of psychiatric research, was instituted in 1963 by the Fund and named the Vickers Lectures. The lectures have now been collected together in book form and arranged, not in temporal order but in alphabetical order of the authors' surnames. Most of the lectures have been revised to take note of recent developments.

As with any other collection of this kind, the lectures vary in quality and the topics covered vary in importance. Nevertheless much is well written and worth reading by anyone with an interest in the recent history of psychiatric research. It should certainly be in every psychiatric library, and psychiatric trainees should be encouraged to read it.

J. L. GIBBONS

Notices

The 4th International Conference on Cerebrovascular Disease and Cerebral Circulation will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona, USA, from 8 to 10 February 1979. Those interested in diseases of the cerebral circulation and the physiology and pathological changes in the cerebral circulation are encouraged to submit abstracts to the Programme Committee for consideration to be presented at the meeting. Abstracts accepted for presentation will be published in the January 1979 issue of the journal *Stroke* of the American Heart Association. The deadline for receipt of all abstracts is 1 September 1978.

Guidelines and further information may be obtained from the following address: Administrator, Postgraduate Programs, American Heart Association, 7320 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75231, USA. Tel. (214) 750-5441.

An International Evoked Potentials Symposium will be held at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, from 4 to 6 September 1978. Offers of papers are invited and further details are available from Colin Barber, Medical Physics Department, University Hospital and Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH, England. Tel. 0602-700111.

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