Book reviews

evaluation of therapy leave much to be desired, and any results from these trials are worthless. I am at a loss, therefore, to know why this book was published. It contains no new data, and several of the reports claim that immunosuppressive therapy is of benefit in the progressive form of the disease while others find benefit only in patients with a relapsing course. This hotch-potch of clinical trials, some of them not even completed and some lacking suitable controls, cannot be recommended.

PETER O. BEHAN

Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome By A. K. Shapiro, E. S. Shapiro, R. D. Bruun, and R. D. Sweet. (Pp. x+437; illustrated; \$22.50.) Raven Press: New York. 1978.

This is a large work on a rare syndrome. The authors have studied 392 patients over 11 years, and they report on their psychological and neurological findings in detail. They also review the quite extensive literature and discuss the neurophysiology, psychopathology, neurochemistry, and neuropathology of the syndrome. There is an important section on treatment, in which pride of place is given to haloperidol, and a final section of proposals for further research.

Most neurologists and psychiatrists see too few patients suffering from this distressing syndrome to acquire enough knowledge at first hand to enable them to treat such patients. The present volume will provide an excellent source book for the doctor who is only occasionally required to treat this condition. The book is also, by American standards, reasonably priced, at least for a library's budget.

J. L. GIBBONS

Fish's Outline of Psychiatry Third edition Edited by Max Hamilton. (Pp. 282; £5.00.) John Wright and Sons: Bristol. 1978.

My psychiatric reading to date has not included any of the late Professor Fish's books but his reputation led me to be favourably predisposed to this text. Moreover, being an outline, a comprehensive work was not anticipated. Unfortunately I am unable to recommend this edition, almost all chapters being open to criticism—for example,

Schneider's first rank symptoms of schizophrenia appear in the section on paranoid states, "typical flight of ideas" is said to be impossible to follow, "depressive reaction" is dismissed in one paragraph, behaviour therapy is not mentioned in the treatment of obsessional reactions. These objections apart, the approach which leads to subdividing organic states into 17 syndromes, many of which merge into each other, and there being no possibility of these being eventually susceptible to a specific treatment, seems inappropriate. Surely such hairsplitting will only serve to confuse the potential reader who is choosing among available texts of similar length.

J. A. G. WATT

Multiple Choice Questions in Psychiatry By Geoffrey Glew. (Pp. xii+78; £2.95.) Butterworths: London and Boston. 1978.

This little book contains 300 multiple choice questions, arranged in five sets of 60 questions. The format is that used in many postgraduate examinations in Britain, the "multiple true-false" variety. There are a few hints on how to deal with a multiple choice question paper and a reading list. The title is rather misleading as the content of the questions is not general psychiatry but rather those disciplines basic to psychiatry that make up the syllabus of the Preliminary Test of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The purpose of the book is to provide practice for candidates.

J. L. GIBBONS

Psychiatric Examination in Clinical Practice By J. P. Leff, and A. D. Isaacs. (Pp. 152; illustrated; £4.25.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford, 1978.

The aim of this book is to give a didactic account of a standardised method of conducting a psychiatric diagnostic interview. It is directed at trainee psychiatrists and relies heavily on the authors' experience in developing and teaching the method of the Present State Examination as a research tool. The merits of the book have in the main come out of this work, for example, the method of eliciting symptoms by polite cross-questioning, the definitions of schizophrenic psychopathology, and the assessment of severity of

neurotic symptoms. The last chapter, Case Presentation, is excellent, succinct advice and should be read immediately by any junior psychiatrist whose consultant shuffles impatiently when presented with a case history, and by any candidate who has failed the clinical section of Part II of the MRC Psych Examination.

The book is, however, seriously flawed. It makes exciting clinical signs appear boring and routine. Despite the authors' apparently jaded enthusiasm for clinical phenomena, chapter 2, First Impressions, reads like an undergraduate examination answer and lacks any conviction of clinical experience or sense of proportion. The book does not even attempt to make biological sense out of clinical signs and symptoms, and is written for "apprentice fitters" rather than "apprentice engineers." There is no attempt to accommodate any of the philosophy behind the problem-oriented approach.

The overall impression is of a watered-down version of the Present State Examination and its glossary, perhaps written for trainees whose first language is not English. This suspicion is strengthened when one finds the heading Third Person Auditory Hallucinations asterisked, and the footnote stating "in grammar the first person is I, the second person is you, and the third person is he, she, or it."

This book deserves a place in the library for the reasons outlined in the first paragraph. I will also try it out on my undergraduate students but without major alteration it does not merit becoming the authors' intention of a practical handbook.

E. P. WORRALL

Neuropsychology: A Clinical Approach By Kevin W. Walsh. (Pp. 371; illustrated; hardback £10.00, paperback £7.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1978.

This is one of the very few general textbooks of neuropsychology, and the author is uniquely well equipped to write the book, having both a medical and a psychological background. This background is reflected in the introductory chapters which contain not only an interesting review of history of neuropsychology, but also a brief account of neuroanatomy and neurology