of this complaint, and estimates the incidence of true narcolepsy at around one in 2000 of the population. Not surprisingly, there is much discussion of REM and non-REM sleep and narcolepsy, and the physiology of sleep in general, particularly in relation to sleep paralysis, hypnagogic hallucinations, and catalepsy. Passouant and Billiard conclude that the illness is lifelong, and a number of authors consider the secondary psychological problems provoked by this disability. Sharp highlights the confusion with epilepsy because of the frequent, but little recognised, occurrence of amnesia and automatic behaviour in narcoleptic patients. Kessler reports a genetic study which suggests that the frequency of the disorder is some 20 times higher among first degree relatives of a sufferer than in the normal population. Four chapters deal with the differential diagnosis of narcolepsy. There are sections on possible animal models of the illness, and on the pharmacology of sleep control. Treatment is reviewed by Takahashi, Parkes, and Boughton and Mamelak, with emphasis on amphetamines and related drugs for sleep attacks, and tricyclics for catalepsy. The cause of the illness remains an enigma. This excellent book will remain a standard reference work to narcolepsy for many years, and should be available in all neurological and psychiatric libraries.

C. D. MARSDEN

Lithium in Medical Practice Edited by F. Neil Johnson and Susan Johnson. (Pp. 459; illustrated; £12.50.) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1978.

The book contains the full proceedings of a successful *First British Lithium Congress* held in Lancaster in July 1977. The senior editor has already edited a standard textbook on the use of lithium in psychiatry and this new book does fulfil his hope of providing a useful complementary work. Although there is a clinical section, the bulk of the content is biochemical. Much of it, however, sheds light on issues of practical interest to the clinician—such as late adverse effects of the drug, possible mechanisms of action, and pharmacokinetics.

This is the report of a conference and suspect therefore to many a library committee, but it is a useful summary

of much current research on lithium and merits a place in the psychiatric library. Since lithium is now being prescribed for one per thousand of the population perhaps for the rest of their lives, and since the drug affects many systems of the body, the book might also be a useful addition to the medical libraries of the larger general hospitals.

E. P. WORRALL

Advances in Pain Research and Therapy Volume I Edited by J. J. Bonica and D. G. Albe-Fessard. (Pp. 1056; illustrated; \$84.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1976.

This book represents a compilation of the Proceedings of the First World Congress on Pain, held in Florence in September 1975 under the auspices of the International Association for the Study of Pain. There are 18 sections in the book covering the three major components of pain—namely the physical, psychological, and social—but most emphasis is placed upon the first of these. The anatomical and physiological papers are mostly concerned with mechanisms involved in the modulation of pain ranging from the action of peripheral nociceptors and spinal cord mechanisms to analysis of the functions of central neuronal pathways. Papers in the psychological and social sections include several dealing with measurement of pain and the role of emotions in modifying pain and associated behaviour. The role of physical, psychological, and social forms of treatment in the control of pain are discussed at considerable length, and it is clear that this field is at a very early stage of development. There are also sections on the effect of cutaneous stimulation, brainstem stimulation, analgesics, psychotropic drugs, nerve blocks, and centrally applied neurosurgical techniques but with little that will be new for the pain specialist. Finally, specific problems, such as headache, orofacial pain, musculoskeletal pain, and other pain syndromes receive individual attention. This book represents the interests of research workers involved in the study of pain at the time of the conference and much new work has emerged since, especially in the fields of endorphin research and the use of psychological methods of treatment. The papers reveal wide ranging interest in pain mechanisms and pain control

but in view of the specialist nature of the vast majority of papers and the relatively small number of general ones the book is most likely to be used as a reference work.

M. R. BOND

Mental Retardation and Related Disorders By Charles F. Barlow. (Pp. 146; illustrated; \$22.00.) F. A. Davis Company: Philadelphia. 1978.

The general neurologist and the specialist in mental handicap are often bewildered by the vast amount of literature—of varying quality—on mental deficiency that has accumulated during the past 15 years. Written by the Professor of Neurology at Harvard and Director of a Mental Retardation Research Programme, this is a practical readable book written for the clinician by a clinician.

No attempt is made to discuss complex biochemistry, and an in-depth analysis of very rare conditions is avoided. Professor Barlow has aimed to bring well-balanced advice and has succeeded admirably in this. Of special interest are the sections on risk factors of infancy and childhood and the differential diagnosis of childhood dementia. The author goes on to deal with management in an equally lucid and interesting way. Each chapter is followed by a well-chosen list of references. It is particularly gratifying to read his criticisms of the trendy notion that a multidisciplinary approach offers a solution to all the problems of the retarded. This splendid book is essential reading for anyone interested in mental handicap.

RONALD C. MACGILLIVRAY

A World of Language for Deaf Children. Part I Basic Principles: A Maternal Reflective Method By A. Van Uden. (Pp. 345; illustrated; \$27.00.) Swets and Zeitlinger: Amsterdam. 1977. This third edition of van Uden's book includes an entirely new chapter on the psycholinguistic reasoning behind his particular approach to the linguistic education of deaf children. The rest is substantially the same as in the second (1970) edition. The work is strongly recommended both to teachers of the deaf and to psycholinguists.

M. K. C. MACMAHON