ficient fine detail for all aspects of management, particularly in the case of those working in the United States. Scientifically, it appears to be impeccable, although of course it represents a stage of knowledge which continues to expand—for instance, juvenile Sandhoff disease (combined hexosaminidase A and B deficiency in near preschool children with progressive cerebellar ataxia) had not yet been described at the time of the conference. Personally I found much of the material, including the discussions, unexpectedly stimulating. For example, one chapter discusses the hypothesis that the selective advantage of the Tay-Sachs gene may lie in resistance to tuberculosis in the heterozygotes, and gives the reasons based on Jewish history.

I suppose this is a book which will find its way more to libraries than to individuals, and in particular will be bought by those involved in the genetics, biochemistry, and counselling of hexosaminidase deficiency disorders, and by those thinking of organising screening programmes. It would seem that a very high gene frequency in a population and enthusiastic attention to all aspects of a screening service are necessary for any sort of success.

J. B. P. STEPHENSON

Manual for the Adult Neuropsychological Evaluation By D. Swiercinsky. (Pp. 191; illustrated; \$16.75.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1978.

This volume outlines a scheme for the testing of adult patients encountered in a neurological or neuropsychiatric hospital. It continues the important tradition of clinical neuropsychology established by Halstead, taken up by Reitan, Goldstein, and others, and it builds on the work of these pioneers to provide an entire system of tests and techniques to give the most comprehensive testing system yet available for the assessment of the psychological effects of damage to the brain.

The manual provides an outline of the tests employed in the programme together with the interpretative procedures and advice on the writing of reports. It gives much valuable information about the experience in the use of these tests over many years at the Tapeka Veterans Administration Hospital, and the factual data so derived are given in the form of norms against

which the performance of individual patients can be judged. It also deals with associated problems of formal and informal assessment, and provides useful background information on the development of the procedures.

This is an important source of information to all those interested in these particular procedures of psychological assessment but it could also be recommended widely to students for its clear and lucid expression of the issues involved, for its broad and sympathetic approach, and for its general philosophical emphasis, and also to those who have to learn how to deal with patients and to interview them in conditions where the personal consequences of the outcome for the future of the patient are considerable. Topics of wide general interest are included such as how to interview, how to deal with difficult patients, and how to ensure as much cooperation as possible.

The interest of the book also lies in the fact that in some measure it represents a progress report on the achievement of clinical neuropsychology itself. It seems extraordinary, for example from the standpoint of this volume, that brain damage was once seen as a unitary concept—able to be assessed in an all or none fashion or that “personality” evaluation was thought to be inappropriate to neuropsychological examination.

It seems equally clear to me that the emphasis placed until recently on diagnosis and the use of tests of this sort to localise brain damage has given ground to highly effective tomographic and other techniques of physical evaluation, and that the role of the neuropsychologist has changed. The author sees him as presenting a comprehensive picture of the patient's functional strengths and weaknesses, necessary to assess mental competency for social and legal reasons, to assess the potential for recovery, to assist in rehabilitation and retraining, and to help the patient to live as competent and as full a life as possible.

STUART J. DIMOND

The Art of Medicating Psychiatric Patients By J. R. Lion. (Pp. viii+149; illustrated; \$15.25.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1978.

In this unusual book, designed to be read in a few sittings, the author discusses the use of drugs in the treat-

ment of psychiatric disorders under three headings: thought disorders by which he means schizophrenia; affective disorders comprising depression, mania, and anxiety; behavioural disorders, including personality disorders, sexual offenders, hyperkinetic children, and alcoholics. His aim is to expose principles by means of the discussion of numerous clinical examples. He is not concerned with every possible drug nor with the minutiae of dosage. He is also at pains to show that psychotherapy and drug treatment are to be regarded as complementary.

Doctors who prescribe psychotropic drugs would benefit from reading this book and it is suitable for psychiatric libraries rather than for personal bookshelves.

J. L. GIBBONS

Editing Scientific Books and Journals By Maeve O'Connor. (Pp. 218; £7.00.) Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells. 1978.

This book, an ELSE-Ciba Foundation guide by the senior editor of the Ciba Foundation in London, is intended for editors and so readers will not require a comprehensive review. Nevertheless, it is worth drawing it to the attention of intending contributors as a good account of the problems of editing and journal production with explanation of some of the conventions used by journals. Awareness of these would be valuable for authors preparing their first papers, and for referees. There is also excellent advice on proof correction, editing of conference proceedings, copyright, and publisher's contract. It is a valuable book for occasional reference and a “must” for editors.

J. A. SIMPSON

Notice

An International Symposium on Clinical Applications of Evoked Potentials in Neurology will be held in Lyons, France on 16–17 October 1980. Free communications will be accepted. The official languages of the congress will be French and English. Further information may be obtained from: Secretariat Professeur J. Courjon, Service EEG, Hôpital Neurologique, 599 Boulevard Pinel, 69 394 Lyon Cedex 3, France. Tel: (78)53 81 81 poste 38.80.