schizophrenia, starting with the earlier work of Buscaino and Baruk and leading on to the studies by Wurtmann on the effect of changes in dietary intake on brain transmitter metabolism. Recent work on the possible cytotoxic properties of wheat proteins are reviewed as are studies indicating the factors on gut function and pathology.

The dopamine hypothesis is revisited, and its failure to provide a convincing explanation for the aetiology of schizophrenia is exposed, although it provides a more satisfactory basis for understanding the mode of action of antipsychotic drugs.

Drug treatments of schizophrenia get less attention than expected and give no real practical guidance to the management of patients. Admittedly this is a book for the specialist but the non-psychiatrist could read the book and still have no clear view of the clinical problem of the schizophrenic patient nor really be aware that we are almost certainly dealing with a number of disease entities at present included in the general title of the schizophrenias. I hope that somewhere in this volume there is a clue to the cause of at least one of these illnesses. The prize in terms of alleviation of suffering is high but there is every indication that the search is far from over at present. Hopefully there is enough excitement to spur on those already involved and to encourage new workers to enter the field.

G. ASHCROFT

Schizophrenia: An International Follow-up Study World Health Organisation. (Pp. 438; £16.00.) John Wiley and Sons: Chichester. 1979.

The first report of the International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia (IPSS) was published in 1973. The study, using precise examination techniques applicable in each culture and of acceptable reliability, clearly identified in each of nine centres similar groups of schizophrenic patients. The present volume describes a two year follow-up. All patients were traced, but adequate current state data were obtainable for only three-quarters. Treatment was not standardised, and there was little information about intervening variables.

Previous studies of outcome have to an extent lacked comparability. The standardised methods used here, sub-

jected to close statistical analysis, showed the feasibility of an international study, and the results broadly confirmed a number of conventional clinical indicators of prognosis and consistency of symptoms, while also supporting some earlier hypotheses on the influence of culture on outcome. The complexities of the study, in widely differing cultures, are admirably discussed. (Is it better to have schizophrenia in Nigeria than Denmark, and if so, why?)

This is an essential volume for a psychiatric library, and while the methodology is discussed in appropriate detail, the literature review and the conclusions are of direct clinical significance. A five year follow-up is in preparation.

ALAN TAIT

Management of Schizophrenia Edited by H. M. van Praag. (Pp. 118; Dfl 21.50.) Van Gorcum: Assen. 1979.

The stated purpose of the Dutch conference which this small book reports was to demonstrate that biological and social factors both contribute to the aetiology of schizophrenia and should both be considered in planning treatment. Contrary to the editor's opening statement only a small minority of psychiatrists are likely to quarrel with such a laudable aim, and unfortunately the few who do are unlikely to be convinced of the error of their ways by reading this book. Three of the six chapters are worthy of note. Hogarty presents the findings of the NIMH collaborative study on the interaction between drug and social therapy, Johnson reviews the use of depot neuroleptics, and Leff attempts to demonstrate that arousal mediates the stressful effects of the social environment on the schizophrenic. Since all these data are available elsewhere, and the remaining chapters are rather mundane, this volume cannot be recommended.

ROBIN MURRAY

Schizophrenia: Towards a New Synthesis Edited by J. K. Wing. (Pp. xii + 291; illustrated; £8.00.) Academic Press: London. 1978.

This is an excellent book which all psychiatrists should own. John Wing has gathered a group of distinguished authors, all of whom have made important contributions to research in

schizophrenia. There are authoritative accounts of the clinical features of schizophrenia, of epidemiology, genetics, social aspects and so on. Each chapter is worth reading carefully. The chapter on genetics by the late James Shields shows how sad a loss his death has been. The chapter on social work with patients and their families can be especially recommended, for it contains much important material that will be new to many doctors. All in all this is an excellent book and well worth the price.

J. L. GIBBONS

Schizophrenia: Science and Practice Edited by J. C. Shershow. (Pp. 248; illustrated; £10.50.) Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1978.

This is a collection of lectures on various aspects of schizophrenia, given by well-known American research workers at the Massachusetts General Hospital. It is not a complete review of modern work on schizophrenia but rather a series of statements (with a very variable amount of research data) by investigators with very different viewpoints. There is very little in this volume that has not been said before, but it can be read with pleasure as a series of essays.

J. L. GIBBONS

Psychiatric Diagnosis: Exploration of Biological Predictors Edited by H. S. Akiskal and W. L. Webb. (Pp. 493; illustrated; £17.50.) Spectrum Publications: New York. 1978.

This is essentially a record of the proceedings of an International Neuroscience Symposium held in Memphis in 1975, although the editors tell us that "all the presented papers have been thoroughly rewritten, revised, updated, and expanded into chapters." The aim of the conference was to explore the potential ability of biological predictors in psychiatric diagnosis. After several articles on the whole question of clinical diagnosis, there are papers on genetic aspects, on biochemical and pharmacological correlates, and so on. The contributions vary greatly (and independently) in length and quality, and they contain little that is new. It was no doubt a fascinating conference to have attended, but not one of the very few worth recording in print.

J. L. GIBBONS