

The authors of this symposium review the organisation of sleep laboratories, tests of sleep quality, the distribution of benzodiazepine receptors in the brain and the clinical pharmacology of different benzodiazepine derivatives. Like many other published conference proceedings, the quality is uneven and there are infuriating discussion sections which lack both brevity and selection. A few curious facts are recorded, including the finding that the inhabitants of Tromsø, North Norway, cannot sleep in the winter months; and that seeing horror films in the evening improves mental performance next day. The adage that early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise, receives some scientific support. This uneven book will be of greater interest to pharmacologists than clinicians. I would recommend instead recent benzodiazepine reviews in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

J D PARKES

The Year Book of Psychiatry and Applied Mental Health, (pp 409; £29.50) Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago 1979.

The current volume of this well-known series provides synopses of a large number of papers on many topics in the general fields of psychiatry and related disciplines. Comments, sometimes on individual paper and sometimes on groups of papers, are made by the six editors, all of them senior and distinguished American research workers. Papers have been drawn from a wide range of English-language journals, but none from foreign-language journals.

The editors have had to be selective and in general they have chosen important or stimulating papers. There is good coverage of neurophysiology, biochemistry and pharmacology, child psychiatry, clinical psychiatry (with particular reference to conceptual models in psychiatry and to clinical aspects of schizophrenia), psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy. Some important topics get little more than token representation, while there is a very long section, including some not very important papers, on community psychiatry.

Within these limitations—and it would take a much larger volume to provide adequate representation of all the topics listed in the index—the book is a valuable source of easy reference to papers in psychiatry published in English up to Spring 1978. It can be warmly recommended to medical librarians.

J L GIBBONS

Psychopathology, Its Causes and Symptoms by K. Kräupl Taylor (pp x+362 £5.50, paperback) Quartermaine House: Sunbury-on-Thames. 1979.

This is a second, revised edition of a book first published in 1966. The first nine chapters are concerned with fundamental concepts such as the nature of symptoms and of diseases, the relationship between psyche and brain, psychiatric nosologies, and the aetiologies of psychiatric disorders, genetic, physiogenic and psychogenic. Then follow nine chapters concerned with descriptive psychopathology, an account of the phenomenology of psychiatric disorders. The third section is a brief but important consideration of dynamic psychopathology, with special reference to trance states and hysteria. In a new final section, written for the second edition, the author considers recent developments including recent work on the genetics of homosexuality and of the functional psychoses.

The first edition of this book was a classic and its reissue, with additional material, is most welcome. There is nothing quite like it available in English. It is a scholarly and critical work, written in a lucid and readable style. It should be required reading for all psychiatric trainees and every psychiatrist should have a copy. Other clinicians, perhaps in particular neurologists and general practitioners, can read it with benefit.

J L GIBBONS

Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, vol 25 Edited by J Stahle and CR Pfaltz (pp 226, illustrated; price not stated) Basel: S Karger, 1979.

This elegantly published book contains the edited proceedings of a meeting of the Bárány Society held in Uppsala in

June 1978. The Society has a membership highly distinguished in the field of vestibular research and this is reflected in the uniformly high standard of the various contributions. In general terms these are concerned with the application of ultrastructural and advanced neurophysiological techniques both experimental and clinical, in the advancement of knowledge of the vestibular and oculomotor systems.

The non-clinical papers are wide ranging and include such topics as the morphology of the labyrinth of the bullfrog, the maturation of the vestibular hair cells, structural studies on the contractile protein action found in normal and pathological hair cells, the role of melanin in the inner ear together with a number of important anatomical and physiological studies of the canal and otolith apparatus.

No fewer than nine papers are concerned with the subject of Ménière disease and these form a comprehensive group in themselves, covering its neurophysiology, epidemiology, clinical evaluation, and ultrastructural derangement, together with interesting concepts concerning its treatment means of pressure regulation. The remaining clinical papers, 17 in all, brings us up to date with the latest developments in the investigation of the orders of the vestibular and oculomotor systems.

The experimental and clinical papers complement each other very well and the scope of the book will commend it to a wide readership with both research and clinical interests.

J D HOOD

Notice

The International Congress of Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, will be held September 13-18, 1981 in Kyoto, Japan. Enquiries to The Secretary, Dr Mitsuru Ebe, No. 10 Crescent Plaza, 4-6 Minami-Aoyama 2-Chome, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 107 Japan.