The skill of hand movements arises from the close cooperation between sensory input and motor output. Deprived of sensation, the hand becomes virtually useless, even when visual feedback of hand position is allowed. The delicate but essential tasks of fastening a button or picking up change from a British Rail ticket office become quite impossible. It is this aspect of hand function that is tackled by the contributors to this book. A remarkable array of acknowledged experts was assembled in Melbourne two years ago as a satellite to the main IUPS Congress in Sydney. They have provided a balanced guide to the state-of-the-art in primary sensorimotor control. There are chapters on cortical responses to complex somatosensory input in both monkey and man (using blood flow studies); chapters on human psychophysical discrimination; chapters on the firing patterns of motor cortical cells in the monkey during different types of hand movement; and chapters on cerebellar influences on cortical motor output. In addition, there is a delightful chapter which describes in mathematical detail how to pick up a full mug of beer without spilling its contents. As always, there is nothing new in this book. Almost all the contributions had been published before or just after the congress in one or more other places. Despite this, the book provides a useful source for those working in the field, as do the other Experimental Brain Research Supplements in the same series. My only complaint is that after two years in production one might have expected that something other than a dot matrix machine would have been used for printing.

JOHN ROTHWELL


This is a collection of some of the editorials that have appeared in Psychological Medicine since 1970. The editor considers that it provides a guide to psychiatric research which is not readily available elsewhere and considers that it will thus be of value to clinicians and research workers in addition to the "general reader". The articles are grouped into six sections: Neurosciences, Genetics, Psychopharmacology, Psychology, Epidemiology, General Psychopathology and Clinical Issues. It is this grouping which, in addition to the focus on the issues underlying data collection, makes the book more coherent than...