

Hardly required reading for your general psychiatrist but a worthwhile description of life in a different culture.

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Psychobiology. Edited by D. M. WARBURTON and A. SUMMERFIELD. London: Churchill Livingstone for the British Council. 1981. Pp 206. £9.50.

This book contains 18 reviews of neural and physiological topics inspired by a somewhat utopian concept of psychobiology that is strictly behaviouristic. Chapters on 'biological' aspects of motivation and cognition here include reports of current understanding in *Drosophila* behaviour genetics (Burnet and Connolly), electrophysiology and anatomy of the cat and monkey visual systems (Ratcliff and Ross), self-stimulatory motivation 'centers' (Redgrave and Dean) and neurophysiological mechanisms of thirst or hunger (Rolls and Rolls) in rodents. Where humans are the principal research species, the effort to explain the psychological in terms of the physiological or organic results in confusion and awkward exaggerations. Fulker's study of genetic factors in human personality and its disorders assesses behaviour entirely by school performance (for cognitive development) and Eysenkian measures of extraversion/introversion (for social personality). An excellent chapter by Bancroft on human sexual behaviour and hormones leaves a clear impression of the influence of non-humoral psychic factors in a field where the evidence is "contradictory or conflicting". Human autonomic functions (Brenner) and appetite for food (Booth) are both shown to be under direct or indirect learned psychological or cognitive control.

Competent synopses of the anatomy of the mammalian (principally primate) motor pathways (Iversen), visual fields in the monkey brain (Ratcliff and Ross), social behavioural development in birds, rodents and monkeys (Bateson) sample advances in these diverse fields.

Neuropsychology which currently contributes important insights to correspondences between functions of the mind and anatomical systems of the brain, is represented passingly in a chapter on the experimental psychology of memory systems (Oakley) and in a chapter which attempts to fit disorders in cognition due to brain trauma to a modular information processing model (Shallice). A review of the use of evoked responses, skin potentials and speed or accuracy of reaction to repeated stimuli to study attention in schizophrenics finds suggestive evidence for a defective left temporal lobe in this disorder which may in

turn result from a failure of the right hemisphere 'preattentive' processes (Venables).

In short, this a potentially useful synopsis of certain fields of research in British universities that have some importance in relation to behaviour, and an introduction to the relevant literature. A strong bias is characteristic of this research. There is a poor synthesis of understanding with respect to primary practical concerns of clinical psychology or psychiatry.

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The Psychiatrist's Guide to Diseases of the Nervous System. By RICHARD LECHTENBERG. New York: John Wiley. 1982. Pp 478. £27.25.

In the last few years there have been several books which seem to have been written with the idea of teaching the psychiatrist some neurology; this is undoubtedly one of the better ones.

Following a brief introduction on neurological problems in psychiatry, there is a section devoted to investigative and diagnostic techniques, which is helpful to all those who process or order neurological investigations in the course of their clinical practice. Thereafter the sections cover patients' symptoms rather than specific disease entities, affective disorders, sexual and urinary problems, movement disorders, sleep disorders, weakness, sensory abnormalities and pain. Neurological problems, likely to be of interest to psychiatrists, are well explored and the clinical descriptions with appropriate accounts of treatments are satisfactory. Myths, such as that which suggest that tension headaches are usually due to chronic muscle contraction, are discarded, and relatively newly introduced techniques of treatment in Western medicine at least, such as acupuncture and biofeedback are mentioned where appropriate.

The author has done well not to be entirely dualistic in his approach to the differences between neurology and psychiatry, although some statements such as "a movement disorder not yet assigned to strictly neurologic or psychologic causes is the Gilles de la Tourette syndrome", does raise to question how far the author is prepared to go to integrate neuropsychiatric problems into a comprehensibly understandable whole.

The production quality of the book is high, and the publishers should be complimented for producing an attractive well laid out volume.

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