

book's presentation. I am firmly convinced that well-chosen illustrations are invaluable in introducing new concepts, and four figures and twelve tables for a 550 page book seems rather miserly. No doubt to improve on this would increase the book's cost, which at £2.95 for the accumulated experience of a professional lifetime in the field represents excellent value.

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Neurology for the Non-Neurologist. Edited by W. J. WEINER and C. G. GOETZ. Philadelphia and London: Harper and Row. 1981. Pp 426. £13.00.

It is a long-standing criticism of neurologists that much of the expertise required to safely recognise and treat neurological disorders is not readily accessible to those without neurological training. Even in the age of the CT scan and the evoked response much depends upon clinical technique and this skill is won only by hard work and experience. Nonetheless, all those working in psychiatry and, indeed, other specialities will meet patients with neurological disorders, whether recognized or unrecognized, and it is therefore important for non-neurologists to achieve some skill, at least in recognizing the existence of a possible organic neurological disorder in a patient referred inappropriately. Further, it is clearly also helpful to recognize the scope of neurological disability and its possible complications.

This book sets out to explain the mysteries of neurology for those not directly involved in clinical neurology. Whether such a book is needed at all is a question that, perhaps, merits discussion since there are a very large number of neurological textbooks, both small and large and several of these provide an excellent and wide-ranging account of the subject. This book, however, is selective and as such provides an inevitably biased and uneven approach. The format is multi-author-style, most of the contributors coming from Chicago, and bears the hallmark of the American mid-West. Patients are "given" diagnoses, the arms are always referred to as "upper extremities", nouns are persistently used as adjectives, and slang such as "in general" irritatingly pervades the text. Psychiatrist readers will be astonished by the cursory coverage of tension headaches, and by the absence of any account of the protean manifestations of depression. The possibility that attacks of altered consciousness might have a psychiatric origin is not mentioned and the management and prognosis of patients with cerebral tumours is exceedingly brief. There are better written chapters on stroke and neuromuscular disorders, but the non-neurologist reader would be better served by

a more carefully thought out and briefer text, with a wider remit than this book.

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Eating, Sleeping and Sexuality: Treatment of Disorders in Basic Life Functions. By MICHAEL R. ZALES. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1982. Pp 328. \$25.00.

This collection of reviews is explicitly presented on behalf of the American College of Psychiatrists as a timely contribution to the 'growing interest amongst mental health professionals in the basic life functions'. This book is not for those looking for information concerning relationships between these functions within psychiatric morbidity although the excellent basic introductory chapters to each of the three sections by Garfinkel and Coscina, Orr, and Levine respectively come closest to this in their treatment of a relevant biological and social systems.

Otherwise the book mostly contains expert and up to date statements by internationally known authorities in such discrete areas as anorexia nervosa (Halmi), obesity (Stunkard, Castelnuovo-Tedesco), sleep disorders (Roffwarg, Williams, Karacan) sexual dysfunction (Marmor). As an apparently convenient makeweight the College has slipped in at the end the script of an eponymous lecture by Axelrod, the contents of which are totally unrelated to the other contents of the book. It is entitled "The Fate of Catecholamines and its Impact in Psychopharmacology". The space might better and more logically have been used for a concluding contribution to the theme of the book, attempting to review and bring together where appropriate the earlier compartmentalized contributions.

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Annual Progress in Child Psychiatry and Child Development. 1981. Edited by STELLA CHESSE and ALEXANDER THOMAS. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1982. Pp 682. \$30.00.

The *1981 Annual Progress in Child Psychiatry and Child Development* really needs no review except perhaps to draw it to the attention of those who have so far managed to remain in ignorance of the existence of the services. The authors have maintained the high standard of the previous volumes and have presented a fascinating mixture of original work and review articles, the latter in particular, having long and useful lists of references.

Which articles are singled out for comment depends on one's own personal interest and orientation as they range from studies on infant observation to the aetiology of child abuse and include a consideration

of genetics and intelligence, a review of casework on the outcome of psychotherapy with adolescents and a critical appraisal of minimal brain dysfunction as a clinical entity. There are interesting papers on physical illness and handicap. These emphasise that while children with chronic and disabling conditions such as diabetes and hypopituitary dwarfism need to develop coping mechanisms which are often successful, the illness itself may be used by these children to express conflict both in their families and in themselves.

Annual Progress 1981 should be in every library and should be rarely left on its shelves.

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Temporal Lobe Epilepsy, Mania, and Schizophrenia and the Limbic System. (*Advances in Biological Psychiatry*). Edited by W. P. KOELLA and M. R. TRIMBLE. Basel: S. Karger. 1982. SFr. 79. \$47.50.

The title of this flimsy costly paperback combines a number of subjects which do not immediately appear to be linked, but as a report on the Third World Congress of Biological Psychiatry, it is not without interest. The main thrust is concerned with psychosis in temporal lobe epilepsy and there are, apart from the editors' own considerable contributions including animal experimentation on the limbic system, those of Andersen, Heath, Sherwin and Stevens. Topics of perennial interest such as the incidence in the epileptic population of psychiatric disorder in general and psychosis in particular are raised throughout much of the book. The discrepancies in various series, in relation to left and right temporal foci, are of importance, though perhaps bilateral foci, not infrequent, are as usual undervalued. It is difficult to explain sex differences, to quote Sherwin "the under representation of women with left temporal epileptogenic lesions in the surgical group . . ." is an obvious problem. Trimble and Perez report the use of the PSE to show that such measures tend to counteract the more nebulous statements about the schizophreniform psychosis of epilepsy. Many would not accept the bald statement of Post and colleagues that carbamazepine is "increasingly the drug of choice for the treatment of temporal lobe epilepsy . . ." though none would deny its important place in the anti-convulsant armamentarium. Their contribution however is of more general psychiatric interest suggesting in careful studies that this drug may have a role in manic depressive psychosis alongside lithium. In spite of the evidence cited that the disorders mentioned in the title have some common anatomical pathological and biochemical substrate the reviewer remains

unconvinced. Indeed, as the editors concede when they say this symposium is a continuing challenge, we must agree, as their evidence can only be regarded as of interest but is by no means overwhelming.

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The Neural Basis of Behavior. Edited by ALEXANDER L. BECKMAN. Lancaster: MTP Press. 1982. Pp 337. £29.95.

The Nervous System. New Edition. By PETER NATHAN. Oxford University Press. 1982. Pp 298. £12.50.

An important practical aspect of the relationship between psychiatry and neurology concerns the assessment of the ability of the brain to direct exploration of the environment, and to provide internally directed inquiry as to the significance of this exploration. There are many ways of approaching this problem of the relation between the brain and its concept of itself and most physicians are less interested in the philosophical approach than in data derived from observation and experiment. These two books approach these aspects of brain function in different ways.

The first, *The Neural Basis of Behavior*, consists of a number of detailed reviews of selective aspects of brain function each of which reflects the neuroscientific approach. The book is divided into four sections, concerned with sleep, learning and memory, affective states and pain. The individual contributions are carefully written, but it is clear that there is much more new and detailed information of interest to the general reader in studies of pain, including its anatomy and neurophysiology and the pharmacology of endorphins, than there is new information about sleep and the affective states. The book is generally somewhat disappointing in that there is little practical feedback from basic science to clinical practice. Indeed, the scope of the book is not sufficiently neuropharmacological to lead to fresh insights into the mode of action of drugs and there is little discussion of clinical data, for example, of the abnormalities underlying the signs and symptoms relevant to clinical practice. However, current views regarding the pharmacology of opiates and of addiction are clearly set out. Disorders of sleep are very important to clinicians but they are scarcely mentioned and the chapters on memory take a similarly restricted approach. Nonetheless, the reviews contained in this volume are well referenced and will be useful to those seeking relatively brief accounts of these aspects of brain behaviour.

In a new edition of his book *The Nervous System* Dr Peter Nathan has expanded and improved the text.