

to carriers of the gene; and it is reasonable to undertake research to elucidate the nature of the specific defect.

It is true that the genetic analysis itself did not rule out alternative modes of inheritance, but the following observations were adverse to the multifactorial theory (recessive transmission was considered least likely): first, there was an absence of intermediate forms between senile dementia and normal ageing among the unaffected relatives; secondly, there were no identifiable cases of Alzheimer's disease in the families. Moreover, the marked variability in age of onset, symptomatology, and duration, which might be thought to argue against dominant inheritance, is also seen in Huntington's chorea, essential tremor (2), and torsion dystonia (3), in all of which transmission by autosomal dominant is highly probable.

These conclusions run counter to some recent trends of thought, and the authors recognize the need for longitudinal studies of mental deterioration, and for epidemiological studies, particularly in the very advanced age groups. But the main implication is clear: support for further neuropathological and neurochemical research should be made available without delay, seeing that social and general medical remedies, however energetically and imaginatively applied, can be expected, at best, only to prolong an utterly dependent existence. The problem is as urgent as that of schizophrenia and may even turn out to be more quickly solved (see, for example, Cameron (4)), provided that the challenge is accepted.

D. W. KAY.

- (1) ROTH, M. (1955) *J. ment. Sci.*, 101, 281.
- (2) LARSSON, T. and SJÖGREN, T. (1960) *Acta psychiat. scand. Suppl.* 144.
- (3) ——— (1961) 2nd Internal Conf. Hum. Genet., Rome. Communication No. 169.
- (4) CAMERON, D. (1963) *Brit. J. Psychiat.* 109, 325.

Somatic Treatments in Psychiatry. By L. D. KALINOWSKY, P. H. HOCH and B. GRANT. New York and London: Grune and Stratton. Pp. 413. Price £3 9s.

This renowned and now classical volume on physical treatment in psychiatry was first published in 1946 and a second edition appeared in 1952. The present volume is the result of extensive revision by the original authors, with the collaboration of Dr. Brenda Grant.

The important and rapidly growing field of pharmacotherapy is accorded the largest section of the book, and is ably dealt with. Reviewing and

evaluating the first decade of the new era in psychopharmacology is a difficult task in view of the complexity of clinical and methodological problems, and is made more difficult by the continually changing nature of the advancing science.

The book however presents an excellent and balanced account of various psychotropic drugs, including the phenothiazines, Rauwolfia alkaloids and other neuroleptics. Similarly the substituted dial series, diphenylmethine derivatives and miscellaneous hypnosedative drugs are also dealt with. There is a good summary of the nature and limitations of stimulants, monoamine oxidase inhibitors and imipramine in depression is included and the present status of psychotomimetics such as L.S.D.-25 and phencyclidine in treatment is discussed.

The next section deals with various forms of convulsive therapy including the new inhalation method with Indoklon. The account is sensible and full of useful practical information. The technique of insulin coma therapy is described and an excellent survey of the literature presented. It remains to be seen whether this will be included in detail in future editions or briefly mentioned as a matter of historical interest.

The section on Psychosurgery is comprehensive. Results in a variety of psychiatric syndromes are presented. The indications in terms of personality, emotional distress and social background could have been described more fully and more emphasis placed on the paramount importance of post-operative psychiatric care and an active rehabilitation programme.

The final section is on a miscellany of therapeutic methods thus completing a comprehensive coverage of the field of somatic treatments. The extensive bibliography covers 53 pages, and will be invaluable to clinical and research workers.

This book is an outstanding contribution in this field and is a must for clinical psychiatrists.

LINFORD REES.

Electrical and Drug Treatments in Psychiatry.

By A. SPENCER PATERSON. Elsevier Publication Co. 1963. Pp. 248. Price 56s.

The first part of the book briefly outlines the historical and theoretical basis of electrocerebral neurophysiology and gives an account of the author's personal experiences and those of others with whom he has been associated in experimental and clinical researches and their application to mental illness. The different methods of applying electrocerebral stimulation and their relative merits are discussed.

These include E.C.T., using muscle relaxants, electronarcosis and subconvulsive therapy.

The author gives an account of the indications for E.C.T. and the preparation of the patient, the apparatus, the complications which may arise and the steps to deal with them. He leaves the reader in no doubt as to the superiority of E.C.T. in the treatment of endogenous depression and critically reviews the value of E.C.T. in the treatment of schizophrenia compared with insulin coma and psychotropic drugs, and when combined with the latter. The satisfactory results achieved by the author with E.C.T. in the treatment of chronic psychoneurosis, hysteria and obsessional neurosis are not unfortunately based on controlled observations, and the reader is left to form his own judgment.

An account of electronarcosis and its value compared with E.C.T. in the treatment of depression is interesting, and the author's claims that it is more effective causes the reader to wonder why it is not more frequently employed.

Furthermore, his experiences with subconvulsive electrical stimulation in the treatment of psychopaths are interesting, but were they successful such treatment would surely have become established practice, in spite of the fact that the method is time-consuming and hazardous.

The account of the employment of electrical stimulants as an anaesthetic and its possibilities provide an interesting study and a field in which research establishments might be interested.

The second part of the book gives an account of the various psychotropic, hypnotic and narcotic drugs used in psychiatry, details of the pharmacological structure of the drugs used and their value in various mental disorders are carefully described. Beginning with chlorpromazine, the author gives details of the phenothiazines and of their pharmacological structure and consequent differences in chemical effects as a result of shifts in the chlorpromazine molecules, and provides up-to-date information relating to dosage, methods of administration and toxic effects of all the drugs referred to. The same detailed information is provided for anti-depressants and stimulating drugs. The dangers of combining mono-amino-oxidase inhibitors with other anti-depressants are emphasized.

In the text referring to these various drugs the approved or official name of the drug is often replaced by a proprietary name mainly used in the United Kingdom and vice versa in other places. It is perhaps difficult to be consistent in using one or the other throughout the text and the author has, one would suspect, recognized this difficulty to readers and therefore has considerably enhanced the

value of this book by providing an excellent set of appendices giving a summary of the drug, chemical formula, dosage, indications and toxic symptoms. Included are the major and minor tranquilizers, anti-depressants, barbiturates and non-barbiturates and psycholytic drugs.

There are some minor errata which are irritating to the reader but, because of the appendices, do not detract greatly from the excellence of the material provided. For example, "promazine" is referred to in the text but is given no place in the appendix. The author describes "prochlorperazine" (Stemetil) but the reference to "chlorpromazine" leaves the reader in the dark.

The author rightly emphasizes throughout the book that one cannot expect permanent improvement with electrical treatment or drugs alone, and that these must be combined with psychotherapy and rehabilitation.

The book gives up-to-date information about major abreactive techniques, with particular reference to the recent introduction of psycholytic drugs, their effects and their uses in psychiatric illness. There are short but concise and useful chapters on the treatment of alcoholism and addiction to opiates, marihuana and amphetamine, and the criteria for good prognoses are provided. Elderly patients are seldom cured, but their daily requirements can be kept to a minimum under medical supervision.

This book is certainly a valuable contribution to psychiatric literature and should provide an excellent reference to the many drugs now being used, while the well prepared appendices provide places for adding further derivatives of these many drugs.

It is to be hoped that this book will be revised from time to time, that the minor errata will be removed and further progress in the fields of electrical and drug treatment be incorporated and the necessary amendments made.

J. T. ROBINSON.

3. HOSPITAL AND SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY

Trends in the Mental Health Services. By H. FREEMAN and J. FARNDALE. Pergamon Press. 1963. Pp. 341. Price 70s.

This is a book which could profitably be read by most psychiatrists in this country. There are well written and authoritative statements on mental hospital practice, day hospitals, and work in the community. General hospital units and treatment of the subnormal are not so fully dealt with. The book suffers from the defects of nearly all symposia. There