

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.

ANNE BOLTON, *Consultant in Child Psychiatry, Middlesex Hospital, London*

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.

D. F. SCOTT, *Section of Neurological Sciences, London Hospital (Whitechapel)*

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.