

fields, and his survey is critical and objective. The early environment in affective disorder, as discussed by Granville-Grossman, is a general examination of the significance of parental deprivation, birth order, parental age, etc., for the development of mental illness and personality deviations. The negative results from investigations of these factors in affective disorders can, of course, be due to 'the considerable methodological difficulties involved in such studies', but such investigations are nevertheless of a fundamental interest in psychiatry.

Chapter 7 concerns the anxiety states, which are discussed by Dr. G. Woolfson. It is a well-balanced and critical article especially on diagnostic alternatives and different therapeutic approaches. Then follows a survey of the personality in depressive patients, by Dr. M. Metcalfe, and articles on affective illness in old people and in children, by Dr. F. Post and Dr. E. A. Frommer, respectively. These aspects are doubtless of a paramount interest, particularly for the general practitioner, who can also be supposed to welcome the last chapter, by Dr. C. M. B. Pare, on recent advances in the treatment of depression. In my opinion, however, this article is too condensed. For instance, there should have been a comparison between the different tricyclic antidepressants with regard to divergences of clinical indications; and also the subject of lithium treatment seems too summarily treated.

On the whole, however, this book, as its predecessor, is characterized by the well-balanced nature of all the contributions. I am sure that we all, psychiatrists and 'non-experts' alike, are looking forward to the next volume of 'Special Publications' with the greatest expectations.

GÖRAN EBERHARD.

#### CHILD PSYCHIATRY

**Annual Progress in Child Psychiatry and Child Development 1968.** Edited by STELLA CHESSE and ALEXANDER THOMAS. New York: Brunner & Mazel. 1968. Pp. 565. \$15.00

In one of the many excellent articles reprinted in this book, Julius Richmond has a passing word for child psychiatry when he considers the relationship between child development and paediatrics. He writes 'Each clinical discipline, if it is to mature, must extend the knowledge in its field through investigation. And clinical investigation prospers most when it draws upon theory and method from a basic discipline . . . it is apparent that among child psychiatrists the concepts of development are largely

limited to those stemming from psychiatry, to the relative neglect of the very considerable literature in child development generally'.

The neglect to which Richmond so insightfully refers has become more blameworthy in the past decade, during which research in child development has expanded enormously in scope, power, and relevance to child psychiatric disorder. It reflects an omission in training and practice which, in this country at any rate, will not last long. An increasing awareness of and interest in social and educational issues amongst child psychiatrists has coincided with a reluctance to depend too heavily upon unsubstantiated theoretical formulations. Symptomatic of the same trend in the United States, this volume, consisting of papers published in 1967, represents an attempt to collate new observations in the clinical field with significant contributions to knowledge in the basic social sciences.

The subject matter is divided into eleven sections, the headings of which include studies of early infancy, mother-infant interaction, learning disturbances, mental retardation and clinical psychiatry. Disappointingly, perhaps, there is no section specifically devoted to speech and language development and disorder. As claimed by the editors, whose own research into children's temperamental characteristics is well known, the articles fall into two main groups. There are those reviewing the present situation in a limited field of interest, and there are others reporting original work. As many appeared for the first time in journals not readily accessible in this country, it is likely that many readers would find a substantial part of the book new to them.

The articles vary in tone and content. For example, a pretty comprehensive and thorough review of the relevant American literature on 'Learning Patterns in the Disadvantaged' by Stodolski and Lesser is balanced by Coles' emotive account of 'Violence in Ghetto Children'. Zigler's 'Familial Mental Retardation: A Continuing Dilemma' is an outstanding review.

The clinical studies, too, merit attention. In particular, Werry contributes a balanced and cautious view of the potential contribution of behaviour therapy, and there is an interesting series of case descriptions by Bullard and his co-workers of the syndrome of failure to thrive in the 'neglected' child. Freeman provides a useful classification of emotional disorder in physically handicapped children. Reprinted too is Rutter's follow-up study of autistic children, but this will be familiar to subscribers to this journal.

Misprints abound and culminate—final insult—in the mis-spelling of the name of one of the editors on

the dust cover. This should prove no deterrent to those readers for whom content takes precedence over form. Indeed, we can but hope that the publishers feel the success of this volume merits an annual review along the same lines.

P. J. GRAHAM.

#### CLASSICS REPRODUCED

**Readings in Neurophysiology.** Edited by CHARLES D. BARNES and CHRISTOPHER KIRCHER. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, Ltd. 1968. Pp. 482. Price 84s.

This is a collection of 18 papers, written between 1924 and 1962, reproduced photographically from the journals in which they originally appeared. This era saw the elucidation of the physiology of the action potential and the triumphant application of electrophysiological methods to the understanding of the spinal reflex arc, and the papers selected are confined to these two themes. All but a few of them are undisputed classics. They include Hodgkin and Huxley's definitive account of the electrical properties of the nerve membrane, with two of the earlier papers in which these were first elucidated in the large diameter fibres of the squid and lobster by Cole and Curtis and by Hodgkin and Rushton. Katz is represented by no less than four papers, an indication of the magnitude of his contribution in this field, two dealing with the relationship between the local 'generator potential' in the spindle and the propagated train of impulses in the afferent nerve, and two more, with Fatt and del Castillo respectively, on the relation of the end plate potential to acetylcholine release and the quantal nature of the miniature end plate potentials in resting muscle.

The remaining papers are all concerned, directly or indirectly, with the investigation of the spinal reflex. The book begins with Liddell and Sherrington's paper on the myotatic reflexes, communicated to the Royal Society in 1924, and perhaps the last great contribution before the era of electrical recording began. It also includes the four papers in which Lloyd, some twenty years later, established the monosynaptic character of the stretch reflex and distinguished it from the multisynaptic flexor reflex.

The 1931 paper in which Matthews investigated the character of the message sent in from the muscles during stretching by measuring the discharge from a single muscle spindle in the frog toe was an important landmark, but it is arguable that a stronger case could have been made for including his second paper, published two years later, which differentiated the various classes of muscle receptors in the cat and

showed clearly the A and B type, respectively silenced or accelerated during a muscle twitch and behaving in the way to be expected from endings in parallel or in series with the contracting muscle fibre. The further analysis of these discharges led, through the work of Leksell (whose monograph in 1945 is understandably not represented) to the investigation of the role of the gamma efferents in the control of the intrafusal muscle fibres and hence of spindle bias. Carlton Hunt, who played a major role in this analysis in the '50s, has two joint papers in the book.

There can be little criticism of the choice of papers in this collection, although it is not hard to find important gaps. Probably the authors were wise to restrict their readings to this relatively small, very fruitful, area of neurophysiology. Those who like mathematical rigour will certainly find it in the papers on the electrical properties of the peripheral nerve and the myoneural junction. But it is surprising in a collection largely devoted to the monosynaptic reflex to find that Sir John Eccles is represented only by his paper with Fatt and Koketsu on the inhibitory interneurone. The late Birdsey Renshaw might also have been better represented by his 1941 or 1946 papers on recurrent inhibition rather than by his earlier paper on synaptic delay.

The editors of the present volume have added a few pages introducing the various topics dealt with in the papers they have selected. They disarm criticism in advance by making it clear that the book is not intended to be read by their colleagues, who should be familiar with the papers already, but is meant for the student beginning to study neurophysiology. Any student who reads and digests these papers will have an idea of neurophysiology at its best, although he will certainly be in for a disappointment if he regards them as typical.

Out of a total of 482 pages, the book contains less than 25 pages of original material, and these show signs of careless proof-reading. There is therefore a certain irony in the fearsome announcement on the back of the title page: 'All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means, nor transmitted, nor translated into a machine language without the written permission of the publisher'!

A. M. HALLIDAY.

#### GENETICS

##### **Brain Damage by Inborn Errors of Metabolism.**

Symposium organised by the Interdisciplinary Society of Biological Psychiatry, Amsterdam; edited by H. M. Van Praag. Haarlem: De Erven F. Bohn N.V., 1968. Pp. 126. Price Hfl. 12.50.