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 anticonvulsant 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.

This volume is intended for a more general audience and will be suitable not only for students in the early part of their medical training but for students of neuropsychology, sociology, and related disciplines. Indeed, there is much in the book which can be read with profit by experienced psychiatrists and other clinicians. Dr Nathan's wide ranging interests in the normal and abnormal nervous system are clearly shown in the examples taken from his own clinical experience, used in the book to bring home points of particular importance. The scope is ambitious, embracing the whole range of normal and abnormal function of the nervous system of man, and the attempt is a great success. The book begins with an account of sensory receptors and of the neural basis of the brain's capacity to examine the external world, including a succinct and simple account of nerves and nerve conduction, of neuro-transmitters and hormones. Concepts of the control of voluntary movement are discussed in a separate chapter and there are excellent discussions of pain, learning and memory, speech, and personality. The book concludes with a glossary which will be useful to students approaching this subject for the first time. The text is particularly clearly argued when difficult subjects, such as the ionic basis of nerve conduction, or new ideas on pain, are tackled. This book provides a wonderfully fresh and original account of the nervous system and its function in health and disease.

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Abnormal Psychology: An Experimental Clinical Approach. Third Edition. By GERALD C. DAVISON and JOHN M. NEALE. Chichester: John Wiley. 1982. Pp 823. £15.95.

Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology. By JOHN M. NEALE, THOMAS F. OLTMANNS and GERALD C. DAVISON. Chichester: John Wiley. 1982. Pp 316. £7.35.

Of the illustrated text books which attempt an informed, accurate summary of the field of abnormal psychology Davison and Neale's has, for some years, been one of the best available. Extensive updating and rewriting of many sections brings their new edition in line with recent developments. The authors have continued their comparison of psychoanalytic and behaviour therapies but widen their discussion to give more space to humanistic, existential and cognitive approaches. Although there is emphasis on the new American *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM III), the authors are not uncritical of this system of diagnostic classification.

One particularly important change is that chapters on specific disorders now describe treatment approaches. Another major addition is a large new section on developmental disorders. The last part of this section deals extensively and comprehensively with the rarely described clinical problems of aging.

Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology presents a detailed analysis of eighteen patients. The volume is designed for all students of abnormal psychology and for practical courses teaching the best ways of conceptualizing and treating psychological problems. Apart from supplementing the standard text book it provides a genuine sense of what it is like to work as a therapist with psychiatric patients. Each case study concludes with a summary of the different theoretical models used to interpret the abnormal behaviour.

The descriptions of treatment emphasise the importance of a team approach which can draw appropriately on various means of intervention.

For anyone studying or working in the field of abnormal psychology both volumes are highly recommended.

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Drinking and Crime. Edited by JAMES J. COLLINS JR. London: Tavistock. 1981. Pp 356. £20.00.

This book should be a salutary experience to those who feel the relationship between alcohol and crime is a simple positive one. This reader certainly had any such naive thoughts shattered within the first few pages.

The all-American contributors are from various disciplines including criminology, sociology and psychology and all are painstaking and thorough in their attempt to clarify the difficult and important issues. The variety of contributions affords a good balance to the book as a whole, and to the information presented, and assure the book a wide readership.

The evidence of a relationship between alcohol and violent crime is substantial, statistical studies from various countries indicating that 50–60 per cent of homicides and 35–72 per cent of rapes are committed under the influence of alcohol. In property crimes, on the other hand, alcohol is only a factor in 30 to 40 per cent.

Various aspects of these statistics are explored. Is the crime committed because of the alcohol, or does it merely provide the courage to execute it? Is the individual perpetually under the influence of drink and the crime then committed incidentally, or could drink be an acceptable excuse for antisocial behaviour? The inevitable problem with most of the studies is that they deal with the population apprehended for crimes, and are perhaps, not representative of the whole criminal population.

Various contributors deal with the physiological,