

has in practice often been assisted by drugs, and that a supervening depressive illness may be the trigger of referral, and its treatment may account for some of the ensuing improvement.

In short a book for the library not one's study.

N. L. GITTLESON.

**The Year Book of Psychiatry and Applied Mental Health 1970.** Editors S. B. WORTIS, D. D. BOND, F. J. BRACELAND, D. X. FREEDMAN, A. J. FRIETHOFF and R. S. LOURIE. John Wiley and Sons, Ltd., for Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago. Pp. 558. Price £5.60.

The editors of a Year Book face an impossible task. They must distil from the huge volume of papers published each year, those which have something new and informative to contribute, and they must present them concisely yet understandably. The wider the audience to which they address themselves, the harder does it become to make a selection which will please every reader. The Year Book series has achieved a well deserved reputation and there are now 20 volumes every year, each covering a different branch of medicine.

This volume is the first of a new series. In past years psychiatry was combined with neurology and neuro-surgery, but the series has now been divided. There is, therefore, the opportunity to present more papers and to broaden the subject matter. Unhappily Dr. Wortis, who was for many years one of the Editors of the joint series, died before this volume was completed.

The abstracts which make up the book are grouped under 24 headings, including, for example, clinical psychiatry, psychoanalysis, social psychiatry, child psychiatry, mental retardation, sociology, biochemistry, neurophysiology and community mental health. This volume covers articles which appeared between January 1968 and December 1969. It covers a wide range of journals, mainly those published in English. The summaries are competent, and editorial comments are added at some points to guide the reader. This new volume lives up to the standards set by the others in the Year Book series. It can be recommended as a valuable guide to the year's literature on any one of the large number of topics which it covers. It is an essential book for postgraduate libraries and one which will be referred to many times if, despite its high price, it is brought as part of a personal collection.

M. G. GELDER.

**The Psychodynamic Implications of Physiological Studies on Sensory Deprivation.**

Edited by L. MADOW and L. H. SNOW. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. 1970. Pp. 113. Price \$8.50.

This book is a record of the second annual symposium of the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. The contributions are not linked either thematically or by editorial comment and some of them make strange bedfellows indeed. There is an account by Riesen of his careful experiments in animals on the changes in retinal and cortical cells consequent on sensory deprivation. Separated from this by Solomon's résumé of work with human volunteers is a chapter by Sally Provence which consists largely of a list of speculative questions about the role of sensory stimulation in the development of the infant. As if conscious of the lack of cohesion of the contents, the editors have chosen a title that reflects nothing of what can be found between the covers of this book.

J. LEFF.

**Noise.** By RUPERT TAYLOR. Penguin Books. 1970. Pp. 268. Price 35p.

Writing in a relaxed, humorous style the author achieves his aim to write 'a narrative about the art of acoustics' for the interested layman. The book is, of course, largely about the physics of sound and its application in engineering and building design aimed at reducing the noise which is such a marked characteristic of industrial society. With determination and the help of theoretical physics it can be done; but, as the author demonstrates, the processes creating noise are so often the ones that generate machine power, and damping the amplification and radiation of this noise is an exceedingly complex and expensive business. Apart from the chapter dealing with the psychophysics of hearing and the cochlear damage which follows prolonged exposure to loud noise, the biosocial aspects of the problem are largely ignored. Some discussion of experimental work which shows that the psychology of noise is as complex and surprising as the physics would have been appreciated by the many readers whose interest in this book probably arises from their concern over 'noise pollution'.

R. N. HERRINGTON.