

## Books received

- Year Book of Endocrinology 1966-67.* By T. B. SCHWARTZ. Pp. 396 illustrated. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. Chichester: John Wiley. 1968. 94s.
- Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology 1966-1967.* Edited by W. W. WARTMAN. Pp. 440 illustrated. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. Chichester: John Wiley. 1968. 76s.
- Fertility and Contraception in the Human Female.* By J. A. LORAIN and E. T. BELL. Pp. 384 illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1968. 55s.
- Neurology in Orthopaedics.* By P. H. SANDIFER. Pp. 63. London: Butterworths. 1967. 16s.
- Physiology of Connective Tissue.* By MILOŠ CHVAPIL. Pp. xiii + 417 illustrated. Prague: Czechoslovak Medical Press. London: Butterworths. 1968. £5 10s.
- Guide to Steroid Therapy.* By PICTON THOMAS. Pp. 223. London: Lloyd-Luke. 1968. 37s. 6d.
- New Editions**
- The Doctor, His Patient and the Illness.* By MICHAEL BALINT. Pp. 395. Second Edition. London: Pitman Paperbacks. 1968. 30s.
- Orthopaedics: Principles and Their Applications.* By S. L. TUREK. Second Edition. Pp. xx + 996 illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. London: Pitman Medical. 1968. £12 10s.
- Bailey and Love's Short Practice of Surgery.* Fourteenth Edition. Revised by A. J. HARDING RAINS and W. MELVILLE CAPPER. Pp. xi + 1270 illustrated. London: H. K. Lewis. 1968. £4 4s.

## Book reviews

### Persistent Persecutory States of the Elderly

By FELIX POST. Pp. ix + 100. Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1966. 25s.

The conditions named in the title cover a range of symptoms from persistent hallucinatory illness to a syndrome generally recognized as schizophrenia. Dr Post finds that despite certain differences in symptomatology these syndromes constitute a group whose members differ little in background, evolution of illness and prognosis. The outlook has however been strikingly changed by the use of phenothiazine drugs. Dr Post's material covers the period before and since the introduction of these drugs in a series of ninety-three carefully studied patients. He reports that phenothiazines had an excellent effect on the disordered mental state of well over half the patients treated. The book is important for the clear, systematic way in which this useful finding is established and contrasted with the situation before the drugs were introduced, when recovery was exceptional. It is also important as a contribution to the understanding of the schizophrenias. The difficulty in research in psychiatry is three-fold. Firstly, conditions are hard to define being often variable and intangible. Secondly clinical observations by their nature are often particularly difficult to repeat and thirdly such observations are most open to influence by observer bias. The achievement is then all the greater when the skilled clinician makes a sound contribution as does the author in this short volume. The only fault is the garish dust jacket.

### Methods in Psychophysiology

Edited by CLINTON C. BROWN. Pp. xi + 502 illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967. £6 14s.

This review comes admirably close to achieving the editor's stated aims. The field of instrumentation in psychophysiology is very complex; the problems of standardization are often immense and many of the more thorough investigators become daunted by them and start to ponder whether the direct study of the psyche itself can be any more difficult. This book

starts from such an awareness. The editor has gathered together nearly twenty contributors, each eminent in the field about which he writes and also able to communicate his subject clearly. A basic knowledge of physics and electronics is essential for the reader. Given this he will find valuable chapters devoted to measurement of skin activity, respiratory activity and cerebral activity. Also chapters on techniques of plethysmography, measurement of blood flow and blood pressure, measurement of salivation and telemetric techniques. Towards the end of the book chapters on classical and operant conditioning lead on to consideration by other authors of computer techniques and processes. All the authors are American but there is some attention to the relatively small amount of work now going on in the field of psychophysiology in this country.

### Psychiatry

By E. W. ANDERSON and W. H. TRETOWAN. 2nd edn. Pp. viii + 319. Concise Medical Text Books Series. London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cassell. 1967. 25s.

The production of a second edition of this book so soon after the first edition is probably a fair measure of its popularity. This edition has a second author and the contents well reflect their wide experience and the sensible eclectic positions of the two university departments concerned. It is suitable both as a textbook for students and as a primer for trainee psychiatrists. It is clinically oriented, concise and yet fairly comprehensive. The good and relatively lengthy initial chapter on descriptive psychopathology is retained. The second chapter on methods of psychiatric examination is followed by a brief description of some aetiological factors in mental disorder. Reference to dynamic psychopathology is slight both here and throughout the book and this is the present reviewer's main criticism of it. The next twenty or so chapters are devoted to careful descriptions of the whole range of psychiatric disorder. Two chapters on treatment, mainly social and psychopharmacological aspects, are followed by two concluding and useful chapters devoted to social and legal aspects of psychiatry, respectively.