

Books received

- The Traumatic Neurosis.* By LESTER KEISER. Pp. 234. Philadelphia and Toronto: J. B. Lippincott; London: Pitman Medical, 1968. £5.
- Adrenergic Neuro-transmission.* Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and M. O'CONNOR. Ciba Foundation Study Group in honour of U. S. von Euler. Pp. 123, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1968. 22s.
- Technologist Guide to Mammography.* By R. L. EGAN. Pp. 123, illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1968. £4.
- Prepaid Group Practice Health Plan.* Edited by WALTER H. UPHOFF. Seminar conducted at the University of Colorado. Pp. 85. University of Colorado, 1968. Price not given.
- A Practical Approach to Radioisotope Renography.* By K. E. BRITTON and N. J. G. BROWN. Pp. 20, illustrated. Edinburgh: Nuclear Enterprises Limited, 1968. Price not given.
- New Aspects of Human Genetics.* Scientific editors: C. E. FORD and H. HARRIS. *British Medical Bulletin*, Vol. 25, No. 1, January 1969. London: British Council. £2.
- Infections of the Nervous System. Proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease*, Vol. XLIV. Edited by H. M. ZIMMERMAN. Pp. 495, illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1968. £10 10s.
- Chemotherapy of Chronic Bronchitis and Allied Disorders.* By J. ROBERT MAY. Pp. 115, illustrated. London: The English Universities Press, 1969. 35s.
- Technical Haematology.* By A. SIMMONS. Pp. 316, illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott; London: Pitman Medical, 1968. £7.
- F.R.C.S. Papers 1963–1968 for the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.* Pp. 49. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969. 7s.
- Perinatal Problems: The Second Report of the British Perinatal Mortality Survey.* Edited by N. R. BUTLER and EVA D. ALBERMAN. Pp. 395, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969. 60s.
- Progress in Conception Control 1968.* Edited by DEAN L. MOYER. Pp. 144, illustrated. Philadelphia and Toronto: J. B. Lippincott; London: Pitman Medical, 1968. 50s.
- Presymptomatic Detection and Early Diagnosis.* Edited by the late C. L. E. H. SHARP and HARRY KEEN. Pp. 384, illustrated. London: Pitman Medical, 1968. £6 6s.
- Endocrine Pathology.* By J. M. B. BLOODWORTH, and other contributors. Pp. 750, illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1968. £15.
- The 'Sphincters' of the Digestive System. Anatomical, Functional and Surgical Considerations.* By L. J. A. DIDIO and M. C. ANDERSON. Pp. 255, illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1968. £7.
- The Role of Learning in Psychotherapy; a Ciba Foundation Symposium.* Edited by RUTH PORTER. Pp. 340. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1968. 60s.
- Recent Advances in Clinical Pathology*, Series V. General editor: S. C. DYKE. Pp. 528, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1968. 100s.
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Cardiac Arrhythmias.* By J. P. P. STOCK. Pp. 234, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1969. 75s.
- Obstetrics Illustrated.* By M. M. GARREY, A. D. T. GOVAN, C. H. HODGE and R. CALLANDER. Pp. 493, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969. 55s.
- A Manual of English for the Overseas Doctor.* By JOY E. PARKINSON. Pp. 213. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969. 15s.

New Editions

- Recent Advances in Endocrinology.* Edited by V. H. T. JAMES. Eighth edition. Pp. 334, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1968. 80s.
- Practical Haematology.* By J. V. DACIE and S. M. LEWIS. Fourth edition. Pp. 568, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1968. 50s.

Book reviews

Amines and Schizophrenia.

Ed. by H. E. HIMWICH, S. S. KETY and J. R. SMYTHIES. Pp. ix + 290, illustrated. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1967. 75s.

The editors organized a Symposium for many leading workers in this field and have presented the papers and discussion as a book. Inevitably it contains articles which have been published elsewhere in similar form and also reviews of particular topics. No doubt readers will have their individual preferences amongst the various subjects discussed, but it is valuable to have gathered together a number of relevant aspects of biochemical research into schizophrenia (and there is frequent reference to affective disorders as well).

To say the least, it is intriguing that there should be amines in the brain playing a vital role in mental function and that there is a growing list of related amines, derivatives of phenylethylamine and tryptamine, which can cause somewhat schizophrenic-like mental disturbances. In his admirably succinct introduction Smythies outlines the catechol amine hypothesis, the tryptamine hypothesis and the hypothesis of a disordered biochemical process, i.e. transmethylation.

The reports by distinguished workers range from abnormal biochemical findings in mentally ill people to the delicately elicited responses to amines of single neurones in the limbic system of a cat. The discussions after the papers are lively. It is beneficial to witness experts seeking to explain the contradictory findings which so often appear as disilluminating sequels to initial exciting reports, e.g. the 'pink spot'.

In Kety's useful summary he reminds us that none of the significant hypotheses considered in this symposium were proved—nor were any rejected—but they have inspired valuable projects and are still plausible hypotheses with heuristic value.

Pathology of Mental Retardation

By L. C. CROME and J. STERN. Pp. viii + 406, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1967. 84s.

The authors, a senior neuropathologist and a biochemist, offer a mature, considered approach to their subject based on their wide experience of mental deficiency, first at the Fountain Hospital and more recently at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton. The disorders dealt with are those usually encountered within the framework of mental deficiency hospitals in this country, with the emphasis there-