Books received


New Editions


Book reviews

Amines and Schizophrenia.


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 catecholamine hypothesis, the tryptamine hypothesis and the hypothesis of a disordered biochemical process, i.e. transmethylation.