Books received

- Muscle Function and Thyroid Disease.* By V. R. RAO. Pp. 81, illustrated.
- British Medical Bulletin.* Edited by A. SUMMERFIELD. Pp. 290, illustrated. London: The British Council, 1971. £2.00.
- Identification of Asthma.* Edited by RUTH PORTER and JOAN BIRCH. Pp. 179, illustrated. Edinburgh & London: Churchill Livingstone, 1971. £1.75.
- Symposium on the Prevention of Cancer.* Edited by RONALD W. RAVEN. Pp. 138, illustrated. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd, 1971. £2.60.
- Progress in Neuropathology*, Vol. 1. Edited by H. M. ZIMMERMAN. Pp. 316, illustrated. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd, 1971. £10.80.
- Immunopathology of Insulin.* By K. FEDERLIN. Pp. 185, illustrated. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd, 1971. £6.50.
- Growth Control in Cell Cultures.* Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and JULIE KNIGHT. Pp. 275, illustrated. Edinburgh & London: Churchill Livingstone, 1971. £3.00.

- Calcium and the Heart.* Edited by P. HARRIS and L. H. OPIE. Pp. 198, illustrated. London and New York: Academic Press, 1971. £2.00.
- Radioisotopes in Medical Diagnosis.* By E. H. BELCHER and H. VETTER. Pp. 800, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1971. £19.00.
- Cognitive Studies*, Vol. 2. Edited by JEROME HELLMUTH. Pp. 363, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1971. £6.50.
- Renal Pharmacology.* By J. W. FISHER. Pp. 293, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1971. £6.80.

New Edition

- Emotional Problems of the Student.* By G. B. BLAINE and C. C. MCARTHUR. Second edition. Pp. 388. London: Butterworths, 1971. £3.00.

Book reviews

Sensorineural Hearing Loss

Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and J. KNIGHT. Ciba Foundation. Pp. 358, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1970. £4.00.

This volume is a most important collection of papers read at the Symposium on Sensorineural Hearing Loss held in December 1969, arranged by the Ciba Foundation for the promotion of international co-operation in medical and chemical research.

The preface records that Mr Jack Ashley M.P., a sufferer from profound perceptive deafness, had asked the Ciba Foundation to consider calling together an international group of otologists, pathologists, epidemiologists, biochemists, physicists, and electronic engineers to discuss the way in which future research on nerve deafness might be more effectively organized.

An internationally renowned collection of experts met and these papers give a resumé of the most up to date knowledge in their various fields related to the subject of sensorineural deafness.

The discussions ranged from 'profound childhood deafness' to 'deafness due to ear surgery'. A section on 'The Organ of Corti and noise damage' is beautifully illustrated by scanning electron micrographs. There is much in many of these papers to interest and instruct the practising otologist as well as the highly specialized research worker.

Lines of research suggested in cases of sudden perceptive deafness include the possible use of anti-viral agents, and the finding of correctable biochemical abnormalities and immunopathic states. It is probable that Mr Jack Ashley may have found the discussions rather depressing as far as the present possibility of helping sufferers from severe perceptive deafness is concerned, but might it not be possible that at some day in the future such instruments as the electron microscope might allow correction of cochlear defects in the way that micro-surgery of the middle ear has become a routine procedure for the correction of conductive deafness?

This book should be available in the libraries of all otological departments, as it may be some time before much of this knowledge finds its way into standard text books.

Psychological Cues in Forecasting Physical Illness

By SAMUEL SILVERMAN. Pp. 402. London: Butterworths, 1971. £5.50.

The author presents the edited verbatim account of part of the psychoanalytic treatment of eight patients to illustrate the thesis 'that there are psychologic cures which signal the development of somatic dysfunction before it reaches the individual's awareness through gross physical symptoms and signs'. This is a reasonable proposition although nothing new but it is somewhat surprising to read that 'these sensitive indicators add a new dimension to the resources of medical science already being used in the detection of somatic disease'.

It is not new for physicians to expect that people under stress may react with physical disorder; that bereavement and other types of loss can be associated with psychological stress and with an increased incidence of physical illness; that physical disorders of which people are unaware can be suspected from minor changes in symptoms or behaviour. This is the experience of psychiatrists and other physicians sensitive to the communications of their patients and already documented in the literature.

This book is a classical example of the old adage about not judging a book by its cover. In this case the first promising impression is not supported by the disappointing contents. The book deals in an incomplete fashion with the known effects of stress and patient-physician communications. The addition of the rambling 'free-associations' of eight patients (albeit with periodic summaries in psychoanalytic jargon) does not increase the readability or provide a justification for the book.

Applied Cardiovascular Physiology

By G. R. KELMAN. Pp. 274, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1971. £6.00.

This monograph on Applied Cardiovascular Physiology is aimed primarily at anaesthetists and was planned as a companion volume to Nunn's *Applied Respiratory Physiology*. In the preface Professor Kelman regrets that cardiovascular