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

physiology is still qualitative rather than quantitative. However, the emphasis throughout the whole monograph is on quantitative aspects of cardiovascular physiology. Readers lacking advanced mathematical training might feel frustrated at not following the precise derivation of numerous equations.

In writing this monograph, Professor Kelman has made an attempt to simplify a fairly difficult and wide subject. The first chapter is an excellent summary of physical principles underlining cardiovascular measurements. This is followed by an authoritative account of classical cardiovascular physiology. The text is illustrated with excellent line drawings. Special mention should be made of a chapter on circulation and general anaesthesia which considers the pharmacological actions of anaesthetic agents and effects of surgery on the cardiovascular system. This will fascinate and stimulate anaesthetists. The subject of haemorrhage and shock and of chronic heart failure is briefly covered. It is to be hoped that these chapters will receive more attention in future editions of this monograph. A final chapter on cardiovascular measurements is included to explain the principles underlying numerous techniques available to quantitate physiological indices. The monograph has a useful and up to date bibliography.

This is not a reference book, but a resumé of a vast literature available on cardiovascular physiology and a guide to current trends in cardiovascular physiological research. In this sense the monograph is well written and should inspire many readers to take a fuller interest in the cardiovascular status of the patients under their care during and after surgical treatment.

Contraception Today

Edited by A. J. SMITH. Pp. 189, illustrated. London: Family Planning Association, 1971. £1.00.

This book is a collection of papers presented at various conferences organised by the FPA during 1970. The papers cover a large part of the current knowledge concerning contraception.

There is always a difficulty presented in this type of material. It is up-to-date in one sense, but there are inevitable overlaps and the papers, prepared for a general audience, are not necessarily concerning a particular piece of research, but of a review of current knowledge. I think the book does offer, however, to medical personnel working in FPA clinics, general or hospital practice, an easily readable reference book of material which is not easy to find elsewhere.

Intracranial Tumors of Infants and Children

By WOLFGANG TH. KOOS and MEREDITH H. MILLER. Pp. 415, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1971. £15.00.

This beautifully produced monograph describes the clinical features, diagnosis, treatment and to a lesser extent pathology, of intracranial tumors in children, based largely on an analysis of 700 cases. The book itself is a pleasure to handle and is lavishly illustrated with photographs, diagrams and photomicrographs, the latter unfortunately all in black and white. The format has been carefully organized so that with the detailed table of contents, the index, although adequate, is largely superfluous. As expected in such a book, a large number of references are included.

The material itself is generally excellently presented, though certain chapters seem unnecessarily short. For example the section on chemotherapy is extremely brief, though of course this may reflect the authors' views on a controversial subject. In general I have few criticisms of the contents. The description of the respiratory disturbances associated with raised intracranial pressure is, however, not in accord with current concepts and the list of endocrine investigations (Table 21) makes no mention of the usefulness of either the Dashe test or of the estimation of serum cortisol.

This book is to be recommended and any paediatrician, neurologist or neurosurgeon, but not I fear pathologist, could read it with benefit. Few, however, will be inclined to buy it at the prohibitive price of £15.