

techniques has been the main reason for the spectacular reduction in morbidity and mortality following intestinal operations; unfortunately this subject is only very sketchily discussed in this volume and a great opportunity has thus been missed. Another most important advance was the development of modern anaesthesia, and a short chapter on anaesthesia for intestinal surgery is included in this monograph. To the reader accustomed to anaesthesia as it is carried out in Great Britain this seems to be the most disappointing part of the book.

It is probably true that little actual advance in operative technique for intestinal surgery has been made during the last two decades, with the exception of the advances in paediatric intestinal surgery. Unfortunately, while the author appears to have had wide experience of intestinal operations in adults and quotes large series of them he seems to have had little personally to do with the intestinal surgery of infancy, and the chapters devoted to the treatment of the congenital malformations of the intestine consist mainly of abstracts of the literature. It is a pity that the articles abstracted are not always the most important or the most recent, and it is a further pity that opposite opinions are frequently quoted without comment, thus baffling the reader.

The book is lavishly produced, beautifully printed, and the illustrations are of a high order. But, as with all other recent German medical publications, the price appears to be excessively high.

P. P. RICKHAM.

STEROID CHEMISTRY

Steroid Drugs. By Norman Applezweig. (Pp. 742+xv; illustrated. £9 14s.) New York, Toronto, and London: The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company Inc. 1962.

The author is a biochemist originally trained as an organic chemist and the more effective sections of this book reflect these special interests. It starts with an interesting account of the industrial problems involved in the production of steroids of biological importance. A chapter is devoted to synthetic modifications in the structure of natural hormones and the principles that have guided chemists and pharmacologists in their attempt to produce clinically more effective substances. The pharmacology of steroids receives somewhat superficial treatment, and in general the chapters that follow and that deal with the applications of steroids in medical practice are inadequate. Too much information is condensed into too small a space and the facts are selected and reported uncritically. The subjects discussed include the physiology of pregnancy, disorders of menstruation, contraceptives, fluid balance, cosmetic applications, and veterinary uses.

More than half of the book is devoted to a table of biologically active steroids classified in three ways: according to their dominant type of activity, to their chemical and trade names, and to their structural profiles. The last table includes nearly 1,500 compounds; they are arranged according to their trivial names, and references to the literature are given. The first and last sections of this book will appeal chiefly to those who are primarily interested in the specialized field of steroid chemistry and it can be recommended as a book of reference. The pharmacologist and clinician will, however, tend to look elsewhere for the type of information provided in the other sections of this compendium.

E. J. WAYNE.

BIOCHEMISTRY OF MENTAL DISEASE

Biochemistry of Mental Disease. By Theodore L. Sourkes, Ph.D. Foreword by R. A. Cleghorn, M.D., D.Sc. (Pp. 402 +xxiii. 96s.) New York and London: Harper and Row Ltd. 1962.

The idea that mental illness may be caused by a "biochemical lesion" in the brain has led to the elaboration of a number of speculative biochemical theories of the functional psychoses. The author of this book is a serious investigator who is not wedded to any tendentious hypothesis, and it is agreeably free from the kind of bias found in the writings of protagonists of unitary biochemical theories of mental disease. It is a pleasure to find a book which is biochemically sound and which also achieves a balanced view of the problem as a whole.

The subject is treated from a biochemical rather than a clinical viewpoint: thus the chapters relate mainly to biochemical entities—proteins, amino-acids, nucleotides, carbohydrates, lipides, alcohol, and so on. Relevant clinical observations are introduced under these headings. In view of their special importance, the vitamins are given several chapters to themselves; special chapters are also devoted to liver function, neuro-endocrine relationships, and biochemical pharmacology.

This book offers a useful introduction to recent work on the biochemical investigation of mental disorders. It can be recommended to students, psychiatrists, and all who are interested in the biochemical investigation of mental disorders.

DEREK RICHTER.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Les Glandes Endocrines. Volume II. By Gilbert-Dreyfus. (Pp. 226. N.F. 29.50.) Paris: L'Expansion Scientifique Française. 1963.

Experimentelle und therapeutische Fibrinolyse. Edited by Prof. Dr. L. Zukschwerdt and Priv.-Doz. Dr. H. A. Thies. (Pp. 298+viii; illustrated.) Stuttgart: Friedrich-Karl Schattauer Verlag. 1963.

Hämostase Thrombogenese Pharmakologisch wirksame Gerinnungsprodukte. Edited by Prof. Dr. Siegfried Witte. (Pp. 219 +viii; illustrated.) Stuttgart: Friedrich-Karl Schattauer Verlag. 1963.

Errant Ways of Human Society. By Julius Bauer, M.D. (Pp. 162. \$3.) New York, Washington, and Hollywood: Vantage Press. 1961.

Functional and Metabolic Development of the Central Nervous System. Edited by P. Sobotka. (Pp. 203; illustrated.) Prague: Statni Pedagogicke Nakladatelstvi. 1961.

Dental-Medical Emergencies and Complications. By Ira Jay Berlove, D.D.S., M.D., F.A.C.D., F.I.C.S. Second edition. (Pp. 491. 64s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1963.

The Year Book of Dentistry 1962-1963. Edited by Stanley D. Tylman, A.B., M.S., D.D.S., Donald A. Keys, A.B., D.D.S., John W. Knutson, D.D.S., Dr.P.H., Robert E. Moyers, D.D.S., Ph.D., Hamilton B. G. Robinson, M.S., D.D.S., and Carl W. Waldron, M.D., D.D.S. (Pp. 479; illustrated. 75s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1963.

The Language of Science. A Guide to Effective Writing. By William Gilman. (Pp. 248+vii. 21s.) London: English Universities Press Ltd. 1963.

Emergencies in Medical Practice. Edited by C. Allan Birch, M.D., F.R.C.S. Seventh edition. (Pp. 784+xii; illustrated. 50s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

Modern Concepts of the Pathogenesis of Coronary Atherosclerosis. By A. Whitley Branwood, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.P.(Lond.). (Pp. 144+vii; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.