

### Book Reviews

FREDERIC G. WORDEN, JUDITH P. SWAZEY, and GEORGE ADELMAN (editors), *The neurosciences; paths of discovery*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1975, 4to, pp. xxi, 622, illus., £26.20.

One of the persons responsible for the recent growth and present well-being of the neurosciences is Francis O. Schmitt, who in 1962 founded the Neurosciences Research Program. By means of it he made possible communications between a number of scientists from a variety of disciplines who were all concerned with research on the nervous system, but who may not otherwise have met for inter-disciplinary discussions, teaching, and publishing. This volume commemorates Schmitt's seventieth birthday and contains the papers given at a symposium in October 1973 to celebrate it.

There are thirty-one contributions presented by a galaxy of neurological fame: J. Z. Young, Paul Weiss, Brodal, Eccles, Axelrod, Bremer, Denny-Brown, Hallowell Davis, Granit, A. R. Luria, Jasper, Sperry, Penfield, Gerard, Magoun, Dell, amongst others. Unlike the usual desultory *Festschrift* larded with overdone affection, this book is a remarkable production. Most authors discuss their own research, mainly neurophysiological, but anatomy, pharmacology and psychology are also represented, and often tell the story behind it, including the factors that influenced them, their mistakes, and their general philosophy. This provides most valuable light upon the work of these outstanding men, which will be of the utmost importance to future historians when tracing the evolution of the neurosciences from the 1930s to the present decade. It is this type of information which is often missing or difficult to discover and yet so vital for the full evaluation of progress, and which is now being supplied by oral history. There is also an account of "some European neuroscientists" by Richard Jung with personal reminiscences, and a discussion of research institutes, mainly American, in the neurosciences. If there is one criticism of the contents it is that neuro-chemistry has not been adequately represented; the book being a tribute to Schmitt, however, this is understandable as he himself was not involved with this discipline.

Each article is well written, and fully documented, with a portrait and brief biography of the author preceding it. Great credit is due to the editors and the publishers for the make-up and physical format. It is rare in these days of what appear to be disproportionately high cost for books to say that a price is reasonable. In this case, however, it is fully justifiable, for the purchaser will be possessed of a unique historical document. It should be in all medical libraries and read by all those involved with the neurosciences, neurology, neurosurgery, and neuropsychiatry, whether practitioner, research worker, or student. Historians of the medical sciences and of biology must also consult it, and it is hoped that it may inspire others to create similar volumes dealing with other research areas in the life sciences.

SILVANO ARIETI (editor), *American handbook of psychiatry*, second edition, volume 1, *The foundations of psychiatry*, New York, Basic Books, (London, Harper & Row), 1974, 4to, pp. xiii, 1270, £22.15.

The first edition of the *American handbook of psychiatry*, in three volumes, appeared 1959 to 1966 and was given a good reception. The second edition has been considerably expanded and occupies six volumes. As in the first edition, all orientations,

### Book Reviews

schools and respectable methods of treatment have been included with the hope that this will facilitate future syntheses and a consistent view of psychiatry. Completeness and full documentation are also outstanding features, and the comprehensive indices are most welcome.

In this introductory volume there are six parts: history; basic notions; the life cycle and its common vicissitudes; schools of psychiatry; contributions from related fields, such as philosophy, religion, literature, history, and mathematics; classification and assessment of psychiatric disorders.

The section on history is written by three well-known historians of psychiatry, Henri F. Ellenberger, Nolan D. C. Lewis, George Mora, and together they give a survey from ancient to modern times. On the whole, however, the periods covered are too big and there is too much material that can be readily found elsewhere, as well as some that has little relevance to the history of psychiatry. Nevertheless this section can be recommended for perusal, and in the fifth, which contains essays on influences on psychiatry, there is a good deal of material that will interest the historian, although he will no doubt remain sceptical as far as "psycho-history" is concerned. The section on the schools of psychiatry is also valuable, and other parts too will be necessary reading for those working in the history of psychiatry. Altogether the work will be of great value and can be welcomed as a useful contribution to the history of psychiatry, an area in which the literature proliferates, not always gainfully.

STUART F. SPICKER and H. TRISTRAM ENGELHARDT, jr. (editors), *Philosophical dimensions of the neuro-medical sciences*, Dordrecht and Boston, D. Reidel, 1976, 8vo, pp. vi, 274, illus., \$29.00.

The Second Trans-Disciplinary Symposium on Philosophy and Medicine was held at Farmington, Conn., 15 to 17 May 1975, and this book carries the papers presented. The principal theme was 'Philosophical dimensions of the neuro-medical sciences' and the material is here divided into six sections: 'Historical foundations of modern neurology'; 'Philosophical implications of psychosurgery'; 'Neural integration and the emergence of consciousness'; 'The causal aspects of the psycho-physical problem: implications for neuro-medicine'; 'Altered affective responses to pain'; 'The function of philosophical concepts in the neuro-medical sciences'.

The meeting was dominated by philosophers and non-neurologists and there is necessarily a good deal of philosophizing and speculating, some of limited value. However, historians will be concerned mainly with the first section which consists of three papers: W. F. Bynum on Cartesian experience in early nineteenth-century neurophysiology; A. Benton on hemispheric cerebral dominance; Engelhardt on 'The geography of embodiment'. Unfortunately in the second of these there are a number of errors, but Bynum's is especially thoughtful, as are his comments later in the round-table discussions which constituted the sixth section.

As a means of bringing together individuals from a variety of disciplines to discuss topics of common interest, this meeting and the book it has produced have and will serve a useful purpose. The interchange of ideas and opinions must of necessity be advantageous, although the precise benefit to neurology would seem to be, at the moment, slight.