

### 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,