

Its expressed aim is 'to give a panoramic survey of the neuroleptics'. The topics covered comprise histochemistry, neurophysiology, pharmacology, toxicity, animal behaviour and definition and classification of neuroleptics together with chapters of a more general nature on the EEG, classification of mental disorders, clinical methodology, therapeutic problems and epidemiology. The majority of the sections present the consensus of opinion of selected committees of experts. The book, therefore, reads like a series of World Health Organization Technical Reports.

Such a *modus operandi* imposes limitations. However, within these the book does an excellent job. It provides a well-balanced account of modern knowledge on neuroleptics and clearly indicates the areas where lacunae exist. It succeeds admirably where many larger volumes have failed. Instead of confused verbosity and uncritical prolixity of references the present volume is clear and concise and the references few but carefully selected. This book is recommended as an up-to-date, authoritative and balanced account of the area.

W. G. DEWHURST.

Drugs from A to Z. By RICHARD R. LINGEMAN. Allen Lane, The Penguin Press. 1970. Pp. 26. Price £2.50.

A lexicon which begins with 'A-bomb' (a mixture of marihuana and heroin) and ends with 'zoned' (highly intoxicated from a drug) promises to contain

some interesting information on its intervening pages.

This alphabet of the drug scene is written by a journalist for lay readers in response to events in the last decade which have aroused the concern of parents and professionals alike. It draws upon three basic sources of information; accounts of the pharmacological effects of addictive drugs in non-technical language; definitions of the addict's own peculiar jargon; and descriptive excerpts of drug action from diverse sources, including popular novels and technical journals.

The aim of presenting a coherent sociological and pharmacological picture might have been better served if the author had resisted a contemporary fad for 'A to Z's' and stuck to an old-fashioned 'plain man's guide' covering the major issues. The dictionary format results in much tedious cross-indexing and some replication (meprobamate and Miltown are discussed eight pages apart as if they were different drugs, with discrepant dosages). The larger entries (like LSD and marihuana) crave subheadings that would have contributed to clearer understanding and easier reading.

The text was reviewed for errors by a psychiatrist, but a pharmacologist would also have been of value in pruning out some obvious errors and inconsistencies. However, these are not likely to mar the book for its intended readership, nor will they prove more than a minor irritation to psychiatrists who would otherwise find this an interesting book for occasional reference.

BARRY BLACKWELL.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

We have been asked to draw the attention of readers to the following forthcoming conferences:

Long Stay Residential Care—Help or Handicap?

To mark Friendship Week for Sick and Handicapped Children, 23–29 May, 1971, seven children's charities are organizing a one-day conference with the above title at the Royal College of Physicians, St. Andrew's Place, London, N.W.1., on Wednesday, 29 May. The chairman will be Professor Tom Oppé of St. Mary's Hospital, London, and the opening speaker Lord Aberdare, Minister of State for the Department of Health and Social Security. The Conference fee is £3.50, inclusive of morning coffee, buffet luncheon, and tea. Further information is available from:

The Conference Secretary, Friendship Week Conference, 112 City Road, London, E.C.1.

Eighth International Rorschach Congress

The Eighth International Congress on Rorschach and other Projective Methods will be held in Zaragoza, Spain, from 23–27 August, 1971. Details are obtainable from the Secretary-General, Catedra de Psiquiatria, Facultad de Medicina, Zaragoza, Spain.

International Symposium on Cerebral Blood Flow

An International Symposium on the Regulation of Cerebral Blood Flow in Acute Brain Lesions will be held in Rome and Siena on 28–31 October, 1971. Details are obtainable from Dr. Cesare Fieschi, Department of Neurology, University Hospital, Siena, Italy.

EDITOR.