BOOK REVIEWS

a readily intelligible summary of the studies relating norepinephrine to affective states. Schmitt, who is confident of the ability of the molecular scientist to construct a new theoretical biology for the neurosciences as was done for genetics, has summarized the contribution of molecular biology to the neurosciences. The accomplishments, while noteworthy, do not yet justify his confidence. Hyden presents data primarily from his own laboratory on a search for a molecular correlate to learning and memory. The Reverend Gustafson addresses himself to the problem of the use of knowledge of the brain in furthering man's development of himself. I particularly like his notion that the humanist so engaged needs at least a layman's knowledge of the crucial research. Huston Smith believes that minds are distinguished from computers by the fact that they can cope in ways we recognize as intelligent with problems that are not well defined and for the solving of which rules are unknown if they exist at all. Sir John Eccles, the noted neurophysiologist and Nobel Laureate, believes that evolutionary theory gives a satisfactory account of the origin of the human body but fails completely with respect to man as a person who experiences awareness of self and unique individuality. He maintains that ceremonial burial customs provide us with historical evidence for the dawn of self-consciousness. How they do so is not clear to me. In his opinion, awareness of self and care of the dead set man apart from other animals. He states that the only justifiable position with regard to animal consciousness is that of agnosticism. In the opinion of this reviewer, he should also have taken this position with respect to animal self-consciousness.

JOHN P. FLYNN

FUNCTIONAL PLANNING OF GENERAL HOSPITALS. By the American Association of Hospital Consultants. Edited by Alden B. Mills. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1969. 353 pp. $16.50.

Mr. Mills, in his preface to this book, states, "The American Association of Hospital Consultants has seen the need to bring the physical structures of hospitals into harmony with the most sophisticated clinical and laboratory technology, the most effective organization of skills, and the optimum use of human energy." To accomplish this task, some of the most respected leaders in the hospital field have submitted papers on specific hospital planning institutes sponsored by the parent organization.

As I read this book, I was struck by the vast discrepancy between the stated goal of the book and the book's content. While this statement is perhaps unfair to certain authors of individual sections of the book who have done a reasonably sophisticated and thoughtful job, I could not help reaching the conclusion that, in total, the publication is nothing more nor less than a cookbook on how to build a slightly better "mousetrap." Very little consideration was given to the question of whether or not a better "mousetrap" is a desirable goal for the hospital field.

The fundamental error which the American Association of Hospital Consultants makes, and in which most of the hospital field concurs, is that of separate consideration of medical care programs and medical
care facilities. When medical care programming is discussed, it is in the context of documentation of what exists and what slight variations on this theme are probable during the next few years. With this point of reference, those who make optimistic predictions of large hospital economies in operations, or vast increases in program efficiency through more modern facilities, are on shaky ground indeed. It is what goes on in buildings, and not the buildings themselves, which will determine the efficacy and efficiency of the health care delivery system. Until such a time as the medical professions turn their attention from medical care facilities to medical care programs, from treatment of disease to prevention of illness, from concern about the crisis stage of illness to concern for the life processes of human beings, costs will continue to rise and consumer complaints will more frequently be heard.

Functional Planning of General Hospitals will allow those who follow its advice to do a more expensive, albeit a more technically competent, job of repeating the same mistakes that have been made for the past quarter century.

WARREN C. KESSLER

Drugs and the Brain. Edited by Perry Black. Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1969. 403 pp. $10.00.

This book is the outgrowth of a conference held in Baltimore on March 30, 1967 on the action, use and abuse of psychotropic agents. The stated aim of this volume is to synthesize principles and information for the “general medical and paramedical reader.” It also intends to “serve as a common ground for communication among clinicians and laboratory investigators.” The book consists of six sections: (1) basic considerations, which presents material on biogenic amines, protein synthesis, the “blood brain barrier,” etc; (2) A more clinically oriented section on “Phychochemotherapy”; (3) “Memory Enhancers” (primarily pemoline and magnesium hydroxide); (4) LSD; (5) Alcoholism; and (6) Drub abuse, (primarily the opiates).

In general the articles in this volume are “review articles” and as such very few avoid the Scylla or Charybdis of review articles, e.g., they are either too simple for someone who has a good knowledge of the area or are too brief for someone who does not have more than a fleeting knowledge of the area. In this volume, which deals with much new and complex material, introductory or concluding reviews by the editor in order to highlight and update some of the material would have been extremely useful.

Two outstanding papers in this volume are one by Stephen Szara on “Regional Neurochemistry and Drugs” which is an extremely stimulating and provocative article delineating many of the problems of doing research in this area, and another by Klerman and Paykel on “The Clinical Use of Antidepressant Drugs” which truly presents a concise guide for aiding the “general medical and paramedical readers.”

In general this book raises a practical issue. The rapid growth of the area of psychopharmacology needs a forum to present its findings to the