The topics discussed by those concerned with amines and mental disorder are hauntingly familiar: ceruloplasmin, taraxein, plasma oxidases, epinephrine, adrenolutin, LSD-25, atropine—like psychotomimetics, tryptophan metabolism, and central cholinergic stimulants.

The reader will gain insight into the competence and intent of the reported research. From the comments of a number of superbly informed discussants (and the inclusion of bibliographies), he will find a useful critique of these topics. Hoffer, Heath, and Abood present the case for elevated plasma oxidase activity in schizophrenia while the evidence for the metabolic pathways for epinephrine, an assessment of any role of such in vitro metabolites as adrenolutin, and discussion of serotonin metabolism is provided by a number of others including Elmadjian, Zeller, Axelrod, Kopin, Kety, and Hoagland. Problems of methodology and of evaluation of psychotoxic effects of serum globulins (such as taraxein is claimed to be) are briefly considered.

No one acquainted with the importance of those topics to neuropharmacology will find this a dull or useless book, for the editor, unlike some of the participants, did achieve a useful covering in depth of the cardinal subjects of current interest through astute programming. Both scholar and neophyte would profit if the scientists with rolled shirt sleeves would labor towards lucid scientific summary of evidence and hypotheses. In the meantime, this work requires less parsing than other symposia of identical content. Given the complexity of the area, the book represents a source wherein one can find the crux of some important current approaches.

DANIEL X. FREEDMAN

Pediatric Neurology. By Stanley Lamm. New York, Landsberger Press, 1959. 495 pp. $12.90.

This concise textbook was evidently conceived in the author's mind to be a short review of the various neurological diseases which may pass through the doors of a pediatrician's office. Along these lines Dr. Lamm has succeeded admirably, for his book is replete with up-to-date material and each disease is followed by a selected bibliography for additional reference. This book has careful descriptions of such recently described entities as maple syrup disease, Hartnup disease, ataxiatelangiectasia, and metachromatic leukoencephalopathy, just to name a few. In this regard the book is slanted toward the neurologically oriented pediatrician, and care has also been taken to include all pediatric diseases with neurological concomitants or sequelae. For the neurologist, however, this volume is incomplete, for neurophysiological and neuropathological correlations are often too simplified and incomplete.

Though the format of the book aims at conciseness, at times the writing style becomes ponderous and slightly repetitious; brevity of style occasionally seems to be achieved at a sacrifice of preciseness. There is inconsistency in the alternate noting of drug dosage in the metric and apothecary system. This could have been avoided by listing both simultaneously in each instance or by utilizing the metric system, which is to be preferred.
At the beginning of the book there is a short chapter on growth and development, and normative landmarks are listed in tabular form. It would have seemed beneficial, even in a concise book such as this, to include some information on developmental neurology. The work of Peiper, Madame Ste. Anne Dargassies, and Andre Thomas would have been a fitting introduction to the problem of neurological disease in infants and children. Without an awareness of neonatal behavior, both reflexive and volitional, pediatricians will be hard pressed to evaluate a neurological problem in an infant or very young child since so often a slight motor handicap may be the only early suggestion of disease in the first few months of life.

JOSEPH P. ROSSI

RECENT PROGRESS IN HORMONE RESEARCH. The Proceedings of the Laurentian Hormone Conference, 1958, Vol. 15, Gregory Pincus, Ed. New York, Academic Press, Inc., 1959, 495 pp. $12.50.

The annual appearance of The Proceedings of the Laurentian Hormone Conference has come to be an event of importance to endocrinologists throughout the world. The most recent volume lives up to the excellent record of its predecessors. It consists of a total of 14 papers varying from about 15 to 50 pages in length, followed by a transcript of the free discussion which followed the presentation of the papers at the meeting. The papers are concerned with the physiology of simian and human growth hormone, the purification of human gonadotropins, the effects of light on the regulation of gonadotropic activity in birds, steroid protein conjugates and the conjugates of steroids with glucuronic acid and sulphates, the intermediary metabolism of hydrocortisone, factors influencing the secretion of aldosterone, psychological influences on adrenal cortical secretion, the effects of steroids on in vitro lymphoid metabolism, and the mechanism of action of parathyroid hormone and of modifications of calcium metabolism. In each of these areas the book presents either a complete résumé of the latest information available on the subject or a novel interpretation of previously available material. For instance, it seems unlikely that anyone will attempt to discuss the physiology of human growth hormone for the next few years at least without referring to the papers by Knobil and Greep, and by Raben. Similarly, Schneider and Lewbart’s paper on the fractionation and isolation of steroid conjugates is the most definitive work in the field and contains a good deal of material not yet published elsewhere. Similarly, the studies by Farrell and Bartter and his group on the control of aldosterone secretion represents the frontier of our knowledge in respect to this new and difficult area of physiology.

The book is well written and edited and is a pleasure to read; but in addition it will prove to be a valuable source of information in regard to the subjects it covers for years to come. It is an important link in the continuing chain of knowledge being forged by the Laurentian Hormone Conference. It can be highly recommended to anyone interested in the physiology or biochemistry of the hormones.

PHILIP K. BONDY