

disulphonamides including dichlorophenamide and 5-chloro-2,4-disulphamylaniline, which had diuretic properties closer to those of the mercurials and differing from acetazolamide. Their action in man is characterized by a greater loss of chloride rather than bicarbonate ions and a significantly lower incidence of acidosis and refractoriness. Novello and Sprague then described the preparation of chlorothiazide by ring closure of 5-chloro-2,4-disulphamylaniline. At about the same time, hydrochlorothiazide was synthesized by deStevens and his colleagues. These were the forerunners of a series of thiazides of which several have found extensive clinical application.

The major part of this monograph is devoted to the sulphonamide and benzothiadiazine series of diuretics. The historical background of developments in these series of drugs makes interesting reading. The account of structure-activity relationships is of special value. Another important chapter is that dealing with substances which either antagonize the action of aldosterone or interfere with its synthesis. Other substances which have been used as diuretics are dealt with briefly, as befits their relative unimportance in therapeutics.

This is a valuable review which emphasizes particularly the chemical aspects of the subject. The treatment of the physiology of renal function is starkly simple and some errors have crept in. Thus, on p. 48, sodium carbonate is said to be formed by the union of bicarbonate ions with sodium ions in the tubular cells. There is also a very brief account of the pharmacological evaluation of diuretic action. Chapter 9 includes an assessment of the place of diuretics in the treatment of hypertension. The coverage of the biological activities of the diuretics is not comprehensive. The actions of thiazides—and of more recently introduced drugs such as triamterene—on urea, uric acid and glucose metabolism, are not mentioned. However, since the main emphasis of the monograph is on chemical aspects, especially structure-activity relationships, of diuretic drugs, these deficiencies are less serious. There is an adequate index and the book is well produced. The titles announced for further volumes in this series of monographs (some have already appeared) suggest that it will be a very valuable venture.

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## PSYCHOLOGIST'S BEDSIDE BOOK

### Readings in Psychology

Edited by Prof. John Cohen. Pp. 414. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1964.) 52s. 6d. net.

THE collection, under one cover, of papers previously published elsewhere can be justified on the grounds either that it gives access to papers of historical merit, or that it brings together the contribution of experts in a particular field. But when the chapters are not classics and when the spread of specialities is broad, justification is harder to find. That is the situation with *Readings in Psychology*. Of its twenty-three chapters, only six appear to have been written especially for the book. The remainder are reprints of papers, chapters in textbooks, and presidential addresses to various learned societies.

The best indication of the book's coverage can be obtained from a list of its chapters: Cohen, a perspective for psychology; Oldfield, experiment in psychology—a centenary and an outlook; Burt, Francis Galton and his contributions to psychology; Meredith, models, meanings and men; Inhelder, some aspects of Piaget's genetic approach to cognition; Mace, homeostasis, needs and values; Zangwill, physiological and experimental psychology; Steinberg, aspects of psychopharmacology: drug-induced changes in emotion and personality;

Vernon, attention and visual perception; Drever, perceptual organization and action; Humphrey, fifty years' experiment on thinking; Bowden, thought and machine processes; Mackay, information theory in the study of man; Summerfield and Legge, information theory and perception; Cohen, contact between minds; Hunter, the organization of memory; Vernon, the psychology of intelligence and *g*; Fraisse, the sources of emotion; Broadbent, response to stress in military and other situations; Hearnshaw, temporal integration and behaviour; Glover, research techniques in psychoanalysis and in general psychology: an essay in contrasts; Rodger, the effective use of man-power; Thorpe, some concepts of ethology.

Is there a hidden thread of continuity under this apparent hotch-potch? Prof. Cohen, in his foreword, points out that the sequence of chapters is methodical, but by this he appears to mean merely that the first couple of chapters are concerned with historical issues, the next few are theoretical, the next physiological and so on—a clump of chapters dealing with one set of topics is followed by another clump dealing with another set, but the ordering of these clumps is arbitrary and could be altered without affecting the merit of the book. Such a minimal degree of ordering gives no sense of continuity to the reader, who, if a non-psychologist, would be well advised to go elsewhere if he is seeking general information about the subject; from this volume he will only obtain an impression of an enormously wide, fragmented discipline, if discipline at all.

What then is the object of such a book? In view of the choice of authors—all except two are British—it would seem that one purpose is to publicize the contributions of modern British psychologists. As a corrective to the parochialism of much American writing, such a step is to be welcomed, but it is unfortunate that it had to take this form. How much better if these same contributors would combine forces to write a general textbook.

*Readings in Psychology* has to be dipped into, and, approached in this manner, it could be both instructive and enjoyable. Many of the chapters are clearly written—possibly a result of their earlier delivery as spoken papers. Some report recent research but one or two are quite out of date although written within the past ten years. It is equally irritating to be confronted with a chapter which has not been revised at all as with one which has a postscript pointing out its present-day inadequacies. The authors of these chapters should have been asked to contribute new articles or at least to remedy the deficiencies in the originals.

Perhaps the book can best serve psychologists as a bedside book.

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## DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES OF THE DIGENETIC TREMATODES

### Keys to the Trematodes of Animals and Man.

By K. I. Skrjabin and others. Translated by Raymond W. Dooley. Translation edited by Hisao P. Arai. Pp. xvi + 351. (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1964.) 10 dollars.

FOR more than fifteen years (1947–62), Academician K. I. Skrjabin and his staff at the Helminthological Laboratory of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. laboured to produce twenty volumes with a total of 14,000 pages entitled *Trematody Zhivotnykh i Cheloveka* (Trematodes of Animals and Man), an enormous compilation of taxonomic data on digenetic trematodes which still requires four volumes for completion. Skrjabin's initial idea of producing eight to ten volumes of information about genera became an ambition to define