

has not been firmly established and is the cause of a great deal of misunderstanding between general practitioner and consultant in this field.

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#### REFERENCES

1. Eastwood, N. B., Bruce, R. G., and Wren, W. J. (1965). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 10, 257.
2. Paterson, L., Miller, A., and Henderson, A. (1970). *Lancet*. 1, 1195.

#### Electronoiks\*

Sir,

I am not a founder [member of the Royal College, but have been on the College Research Register for some time working in a number of fields but possibly not up the same tree as your correspondent E. C. Hamlyn (*Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, July 1970).

I once spoke at the same meeting as the Rt. Hon. Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, and have attended symposia on mental health addressed by eminent members of the psychiatric fraternity. I have also watched Freud on television.

Since 1959 I have taken a keen interest in the

anatomy of the mind and have had the good fortune to observe at close hand the work of L. H. Dexter who has developed Electronoiks. Electronoiks involves the application of intense gamma radiation photometric methods to micron photography so that the passage of mental impulses are given physical form. From this work it can be categorically said that the mind is anatomical, physical and subject to direct observation. There is no doubt that the evidence shows that electonoikal patterns have unique configurations which vary according to the emotion felt, for example, pain.

These new and exciting findings make nonsense of the belief that the mind is merely a spiritual phenomenon. I am sure that doctors, esteemed by their fellow men, will welcome this addition to their armamentarium in mental care.

Much needs to be done in this field and it is soon hoped to be able to present a comprehensive guide to the ordinary practitioner.

Oldham.

GARETH LLOYD

\* Electronoiks is spelt in this way because L. H. Dexter, when he first observed the phenomenon of electronic, photometric mind impulse recognition, said 'oik'. He has applied this term to the recognized impulse—hence 'electronoiks'.

## Book reviews

**The international handbook of medical science. A concise guide to current practice and recent advances.** Edited by DAVID HORROBIN and ALEXANDER GUNN. Aylesbury. Medical and Technical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1970. Pp. 744. Price. £3 15s. (£3.75)

This handbook was heralded by an intensive advertising campaign in which it was described as a new concept in medical publishing, and the editors claim that it has been planned to provide a unique service to the medical profession. It is against this background that the work must be reviewed. The first part consists of a series of review articles on recent advances in a series of selected subjects. These are written by a team of well-known authorities from both sides of the Atlantic. They do not cover the whole field of medicine or surgery and some are rather scrappy. They leave the impression that here is another of those year books whose life is purely transient. Each chapter is preceded by a few editorial lines describing its content. For example that on recent advances in surgery proclaims that "The

developments in modern surgery are world-renowned, since the field of transplantation has captured international interest". Psychiatry we find "has become one of the important modern sciences of the developed community". For those who administer anaesthetics there are four pages in which "Professor Dripps retails the main areas of advance in this subject and reviews the problems that face this specialty". There is a large section on drugs in which there is much useful information, particularly on the cytotoxic drugs. Sometimes there is some gratuitous information, such as that magnesium trisilicate is "a white powder given orally in a dose of 1.0g. mixed with milk or water". A large section on the management of the more common syndromes follows. These are divided into categories according to the anatomical systems involved. They are short and concise, and of varying quality. The section on cardiovascular disorders is especially informative. Dr John Fry writes on common emergencies as seen by the general practitioner. Hence the unusual terminology. Included are such phenomena as the 'acute back'