(leading to anger), and the relevance of good versus poor imagery in the development of phobias. Other interesting chapters present evidence that the frontal region of the left hemisphere is concerned with pleasant emotions, that an abundance of positive emotions facilitates the development of altruism, and that hypnotically induced emotion can influence learning and memory.

There is a wealth of important material in this book, but it is difficult to find, being hidden in some very long and detailed accounts of research. The editors provide an introductory chapter which is little more than a non-evaluative overview. It would have helped to give more of a commentary on each chapter, drawing attention to the highlights or, at least, to have drawn together the important advances in a concluding chapter. Because this has not been done, my impression is that few people will take the trouble to sift carefully through this book which can reveal some fascinating insights into the ways that children develop.

DAVID K. B. NIAS, *Senior Psychologist, Darenth Park Hospital, Kent*

Theory and Treatment of Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia: Biomedical, Sociocultural, and Psychological Perspectives. Edited by STEVEN WILEY EMMETT. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1985. Pp. 332. $30.00.

This is an American compilation issue. It consists of 17 chapters by authors of a wide variety of professional backgrounds put together by a minister of the church who is also a psychotherapist specialising in the treatment of eating disorders. The volume is divided into three sections which cover biomedical, sociocultural and psychological perspectives of anorexia nervosa and bulimia followed by a concluding section.

The quality is very uneven and mixed. Some chapters, notably those by Spack on Medical Complications of Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia and the one by Copeland on Neuroendocrine Aspects of Eating Disorders, provide detailed and comprehensive reviews of the literature in these areas. Others are much more personal and reflect the viewpoint of the author; for example, Orbach's interesting chapter giving a feminist perspective of anorexia nervosa and White Jr.'s chapter on intervention strategies and outcome considerations give synopses of their work.

The book contains a great deal of information but unfortunately it is not presented in an orderly way and therefore does not hang well together. A fundamental fault is the failure to provide definitions for the terms 'anorexia nervosa' and 'bulimia' and it is by no means certain that each author utilises the same diagnostic criteria. Indeed, several chapters do not attempt to distinguish these conditions.

Although the label bulimia nervosa was originally coined to describe a variant of anorexia nervosa, the diagnosis has established itself as a distinct disorder. Some patients have a past history of anorexia nervosa and others do not. There still remains considerable confusion and uncertainty concerning the most appropriate diagnostic label to attach to those patients who have suffered from anorexia nervosa and who binge and vomit, especially if their weight approaches the average range. It is therefore of the greatest importance to clarify the diagnostic criteria in respect of bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa if the results of research in these areas are to produce fruitful distinctions. Unfortunately this book has fudged this clarification of such a fundamental issue although it contains a range of interesting perspectives.

EDWARD STONEHILL, *Consultant Psychiatrist, Central Middlesex Hospital, London*

Literature and Medicine. Vol. 4. Psychiatry and Literature. By PETER W. GRAHAM. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1985. Pp. 173. Subscription: $12.95 (individual), $25.00 (institutions).

"Our criticisms, from age to age, reflect the things that the age demands". The application of T. S. Eliot's dictum to this collection suggests a demand for rather stodgy fare.

This volume consists of a series of disparate essays, on the broad theme of the connection between psychiatry and literature; and in particular between "madness" and authorship. It gets off to a bad start with a contribution by Thomas Szasz, the originator of 'Conventional Western Psychiatry' – the good commercial guys wearing pale hats and the bad institutional guys wearing dark ones. The bullets duly whistle past and through the dummies stuffed with false antitheses, but no real blood is drawn and our hero, I fear, will live to make many more 'B' movies.

There follow several studies of individual authors: Holderlin, Ezra Pound, Hayden Carruth, Hilda Doolittle and Mary Kempe. In so far as they bring out some obscure authors for occasional inspection, these essays are valuable, but they are written in the solemn Eng. Lit. style, as if Academe was breathing in the vast thick pants of expiring PhD theses. There is the occasional stimulus of disagreement. The essay on Pound quotes one of his beautiful and allusive translations of oriental lyrics—*The Jewel Stairs' Grievance*. It is condensed and impressionistic. The critic concludes, from the fact that 'it refuses to advertise its meaning', that 'it is a poem of and for a paranoiac mind'. Well really! This clumsy Malleus Poetorum would strike down a whole bookshelf of poets, including our own genial Will Shakespeare himself.

J. L. T. BIRLEY, *Consultant Psychiatrist, The Maudsley Hospital, London*

Mind and Body: The Psychology of Physical Illness. By STEPHEN A. GREEN. Washington: American Psychiatric Press. 1985. Pp. 205. $22.50.

The author's aim is commendable: "Proper medical treatment requires an understanding of what illness means to a particular individual at a particular time in his life. This . . . requires listening to patients and understanding what they communicate in words and by their silence. This book is designed as a framework for achieving such an understanding." Central to the approach adopted by Dr Green is his belief that abnormal psychological responses occur when the patient is unable to grieve effectively the losses incurred by ill-health. That theme is discussed at length. In

the remainder of the book, common responses to major physical illness are described and the concept of "illness dynamics" is outlined.

Of interest are those chapters in which the author presents extracts from his psychotherapeutic interviews with patients whose psychological responses to a variety of physical illnesses include denial, anxiety, anger, depression and helplessness. On reading these *verbatim* extracts, one gets a strong impression of the author's genuine warmth, empathy and considerable clinical skills.

Less satisfactory are Dr Green's excursions into theory and the advice he proffers regarding therapy. In the theoretical discussions, readers will look in vain for clearly stated, refutable hypotheses derived from factual observations. Instead, psychoanalytically based insights are presented with an air of certainty which belies the flimsy anecdotal evidence upon which they depend. Moreover, these insights are not merely harmless flights of fancy; Dr Green is convinced that, for at least some medically ill patients, what is required is "a relentless probing of unconscious material". The mind boggles. In your reviewer's opinion, patients suffering from serious physical illness require relentless probing of their unconscious like a hole in the head.

STEVEN GREER, *Reader in Psychological Medicine, King's College Hospital, London*

Principles of Behavioural Neurology. By M-MARSEL MASULAM. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis. 1985. Pp. 405. $68.75.

This volume is one of the much valued black volumes in the Contemporary Neurology series, the Editor-in-Chief of which is Fred Plum. Other useful volumes of interest to psychiatrists in the series have included "Management of Head Injuries", edited by Jennett and Teasdale, and "Mental Retardation and Related Disorders", edited by Charles Barlow.

The present volume is certainly a worthy member of the series, and gathers together chapters by distinguished authors on a variety of topics in what might be termed "higher mental function", which no longer find an easy home in texts of either neurology or psychiatry. However, the enormous territory to be covered leads to rather skimpy treatment of some important areas. For example, a neurologist or a psychiatrist who wishes to know more about the current thinking of those with a special interest in memory might well do better to go to some paperback written for the general reader with an interest in this subject.

A useful chapter is from the Editor, Dr M-Marsel Masulam, on the phenomenon of attention. It is intriguing, to say the least, that the performance of patients with unilateral neglect of space to the left can be improved by financial reward. This is a good example of the central theme of the book—attempts to understand the integration of the behaviour, unseen cognitive processes and feelings of the individual with his disordered brain.

In his preface, the Editor reassures psychiatrists that there is no inexorable movement towards reclassifying all psychiatric diseases within the realm of neurology. He writes that, for the vast majority of patients who seek psychiatric help, a neurological approach is no more useful, or desirable, than a chemical analysis of the ink would be for deciphering the meaning of a message. However, new discoveries on the cerebral organisation of emotion and personality are prompting the inclusion of neurological causes into the differential diagnosis of many conditions that have traditionally been attributed to idiopathic psychiatric disorders.

ANTHONY HOPKINS, *Physician in Charge, Department of Neurology, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London*

Mental Health Care in the European Community. Edited by STEEN P. MANGEN. London: Croom Helm. 1985. Pp. 278. £16.95.

Steen Mangen has compiled an account of the mental health policies of the (then) nine countries of the Common Market. The authors, who come from different mental health disciplines, are often natives of the countries whose policies they describe. The editor contributes a most interesting introductory survey of the European scene and chapters on the United Kingdom and Germany. Some of the other chapters are less well written, although Professor Stromgren's chapter on Denmark is particularly interesting and readable. The book is produced in camera-ready form and there are too many typographical errors.

In spite of its multilingual origins, the English is generally good.

Although we have shed some of our traditional insularity we still know little of the social policies which influence the work and the remuneration of our European colleagues. Those who take the NHS, the Mental Health Acts and the declining populations of mental hospitals for granted, will be interested, perhaps surprised, to read of the complicated insurance systems, archaic mental health legislation and the hospital provision of other countries.

This book, like travel itself, broadens our outlook and if in some ways it is a book for the specialist the general reader will find much to interest him. Everyone should read Steen Mangen's excellent introductory chapter.

DOUGLAS BENNETT, *Emeritus Physician, Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals*

Textbook of Child Neurology. 3rd edition. By JOHN H. MENKES. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger. 1985. Pp. 827. $64.25.

This is the third edition of a well-established textbook of *Child Neurology* first published in 1974. Chapters are organised predominantly according to aetiology, for example heredodegenerative diseases, chromosome anomalies, toxic and nutritional disorders and tumours of the nervous system, with a final chapter by Kinsbourne on disorders of mental development. Presentation is systematic for specific disorders covering pathology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis and treatment. Typography layout and production are good.