

Professor Halmos spares us nothing: 'it is not my wish to emulate those for whom the most important causal process in the poultry yard is the one in which eggs cause hens to be made whilst thoroughly neglecting that other causal process in which hens cause eggs to be made.' And yet he constantly provokes one to think afresh about things which are at the very centre of the professional concerns of psychiatrists. Each reader will decide for himself how far he is persuaded by Professor Halmos's thesis. This is a book that could generate some lively seminars.

TOM ARIE.

NEW JOURNALS

Psychological Medicine: Vol. 1, No. 1. November 1971. Vol. 2, February 1971. Edited by MICHAEL SHEPHERD. British Medical Association. Quarterly. Annual subscription £3.75 in U.K. and Eire, £4.20 overseas.

The objective of this new quarterly 'devoted primarily to research in clinical psychiatry and its allied sciences,' is, as Professor Shepherd the Editor tells us, the speedy publication of relevant, inevitably variegated papers of high scientific standard from the United Kingdom and other countries. We can happily record that this journal achieves its aim. Waiting time for publication of articles has been growing and a new outlet has been needed. Here we have it. Extolling individual authors would be like carrying Chairs to Camberwell, and though the first number, perhaps understandably, has a high Maudsley component, the second issue shows that we need not fear a parochial production.

The journal is conventional but attractive in appearance. There are approximately 90 pages of text in each issue, with advertisements confined to the end pages. Articles are printed in pleasing type face in double columns on good quality paper. Each begins with a very brief summary. Tables are well laid out, diagrams are clear, photographs are not quite so well reproduced.

The book reviews, except for the first, are unattributed. In the *British Journal of Psychiatry* even the Editor signs his own, and other reviewers have provided quite strong meat, sometimes even 'a bit off'. Readers have been able to assimilate them and treat them appropriately because they have known who wrote them. Anonymity is a two-edged weapon, and your reviewer thinks the disadvantages considerably outweigh the advantages. On the other hand the editorial in the second issue is signed, a curious practice, especially as the author is not a member of the Editorial Committee, Does it or doesn't it, then, represent the Editor's own views?

These are, however, minor points. *Psychological Medicine* is, on the evidence of the first two issues, going to be an important psychiatric journal that everyone will need to read and want to read.

NEIL KESSEL.

Tropical Doctor: Vol. 1, No. 1. January 1971. Published by Royal Society of Medicine. Edited by H. A. Clegg. Subscription £3 p.a. post free.

This new quarterly aims to publish invited contributions on the prevention, management and treatment of prevalent diseases in developing countries and to present a picture of the problems of health and disease in these countries; it will not confine itself to tropical medicine. It is particularly aimed at the isolated worker in the tropics. The first edition contains articles on the treatment of cholera, the treatment of lobar pneumonia, the recognition and treatment of Burkitt's lymphoma, the treatment of hookworm, the management of burns, the management of head injuries, tropical ulcer, general anaesthesia, maternity care in the tropics, eradication of smallpox, and clinics for the under-fives.

None of the articles is a research communication, and the prime purpose of the journal seems to be educational. Psychiatry doesn't get a mention at this stage, presumably because it is low on the list of priorities of the 'tropical doctor'. However, there are some terrible deficiencies in the care of the insane in some parts of the world. In view of the journal's stated aims perhaps they will get attention in later issues.

JOHN GUNN.

REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Assessment in Cerebrovascular Insufficiency. Edited by G. STÖCKER, R. A. KUHN, P. HALL, G. BECKER and E. VAN DER VEEN. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1971. Pp. 152, 72 illustrations, 39 Tables. Price DM 20.

This is the report of an international symposium on the assessment of the effects of cyclandelate (cyclospasmol) on cerebral blood flow and mental function in patients with cerebrovascular insufficiency, held in Würzburg in 1970. It contains 22 papers, 11 from the United Kingdom, which together provide a concise and up-to-date account of a variety of psychological and physiological research techniques in geriatric psychiatry. There was general agreement that treatment with cyclandelate benefits the elderly patient with mental impairment due to cerebrovascular disease. The drug may act not just by increasing cerebral blood flow but also directly on brain metabolism.