

no monolith called learning theory to which all behaviour therapists subscribe; there are considerable differences between the Hullian approach of Wolpe, for instance, and the Skinnerian approach of those who favour operant conditioning. Curiously enough, this distinction almost exactly coincides with that between the treatment of neurotic and psychotic patients; desensitization and aversion therapy are practically restricted to neurotic disorders, whereas operant conditioning is almost entirely used with psychotics, autistic children and the like. Ullman and Krasner, although more committed to a Skinnerian approach, give a good account of all relevant theories. It is a sign of the times that a book such as this not only did not exist ten years ago, but could not have existed; nearly all the developments it describes are recent ones. When a second edition becomes available, we should know the answer to many of the questions Ullman and Krasner still have to leave unanswered.

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POSSESSION

Trance and Possession States. Editor, RAYMOND PRINCE. Montreal: R. M. Bucke Memorial Society. 1968. Pp. 200. Price \$4.00.

This little book contains fourteen papers contributed to a multi-disciplinary conference on the theme of its title; there are also introductory remarks by Dr. Prince and an epilogue by D. H. Salman, vice-president of the R. M. Bucke Memorial Society, which is devoted to the study of areas common to religion and society.

The conference must have been of considerable interest, since in addition to the papers here published the participants also saw Dr. Sargant's films of trance states in the West Indies, in Kentucky, in the Sudan and in the Home Counties, and Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Marshall's film on trance states among bushmen of the Kalahari desert. It opened with a scholarly review of the world-wide distribution of such states, by the anthropologist Erika Bourguignon, followed by a series of accounts, both descriptive and interpretative, of the phenomenon as observed in Africa, India, Iran and the Caribbean. The social function of such states was discussed in terms of psychotherapy by Ari Kiev, of social cybernetics by Raymond Prince, and of their religious significance by Alex Wayman and Taghi Modarressi. Finally, there was a panel discussion (to which the very brief notes here recorded must surely do less than justice) on the attitude of the major world religions towards such states of possession.

The book contains several vivid and evocative

descriptions of the phenomena of possession, but it remains, inevitably, a very partial account of a remarkably widespread and varied type of behaviour. Those whose interests have been quickened might be referred to an earlier work *Possession, Demoniacal and Other* by T. K. Oesterreich, who surveyed the literature of his time with Germanic thoroughness. On the other hand, the chapter by A. M. Ludwig on the general psychological characteristics reads like the author's notes for a much more extended treatment of the subject, and it, in turn, evoked in this reviewer's mind memories of William James' discussion of the same theme in his *Varieties of Religious Experience*.

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GERONTOLOGY

Human Aging and Behaviour: Recent Advances in Research and Theory. Edited by GEORGE A. TALLAND. New York and London: Academic Press. 1968. Pp. 322. Price \$12.

The word 'behaviour' in the title of a book is never very informative; the prospective reader still has to rifle through the pages to find out what sort of behaviour is being subjected to scrutiny. Perhaps, though, that is not necessary with the present volume; the name of Professor Talland as editor gives a fairly strong clue to the nature and the quality of the contributions. Of the ten papers, nine are concerned with laboratory-based experimental work—often they are essentially progress reports of on-going research, with the additional interest that many of the authors are now moving away from purely descriptive models towards attempting to suggest more explanatory, biological-based ones.

Most of the authors are acknowledged experts in the field of gerontological psychology. Szafran brings us up to date with his work on the relationship between psychological and physiological variables in airline pilots. Surwillo relates response latencies to various peripheral and central factors with especial interest in the EEG alpha-rhythm. Two papers are concerned with pacing; Davies with its effect on performance at inspection tasks and Eisdorfer with that on verbal learning. Learning is also the main subject of Canestrari, who concentrates on the acquisition phase, of Craik, who looks at the relevance of content on short-term memory, and of Talland, himself, who contributes a chapter on span of immediate recall. Rabbitt concentrates on the processing of information, and Riegel puts forward a model to explore linguistic changes with age. The