repeating those of earlier chapters. There follows a fascinating and more speculative chapter by Saper on neuroanatomy, in which he suggests that the damage in Alzheimer's disease starts in the multimodal areas of the enterorhinal cortex and spreads trans-synaptically to cause cell death in the nucleus of Meynert. Ruberg & Agid do a splendid job sorting out the difficult issues of dementia and parkinsonism, and there follows a chapter by Breitner on epidemiological genetics, including four recent studies from America. Hagan & Morris then contribute a chapter taking up one-fifth of the volume, on animal experiments relating to the cholinergic hypothesis. I find many of these experiments distasteful, and in any case they were largely unproductive. Many of them were invalidated by the ability of scopolamine to reduce arousal and stimulus sensitivity. Work on human beings suggests that scopolamine acts at the learning rather than the recall phase, but nearly all the animal experiments concentrated on the latter.

Dean & Bartus concentrate on primates, including, despite the title, humans. They also cover the area of therapeutic agents, which are reviewed in equal detail in subsequent chapters by Sahakian on cholinergic drugs, Mohs on vasodilators, and Poschel on nootropics. Although the last two chapters are well written and sensible reviews of their subjects, the choice is regrettable, since they concentrate on drugs which have little effect on dementia. I would have appreciated a more clinically based chapter on the treatment of multi-infarct dementia concentrating on treatments for hypertension, atheroma, and embolus formation. However, this might put the emphasis on clinical medicine, which is certainly not the object of the book.

There is no doubt that this book should be on the shelves of every medical school and every department of neuropharmacology and neurohistology. I have doubts as to whether it should be bought by every psychiatric hospital or for that matter every psychiatrist.

JOHN M. KELLETT, *Consultant Psychiatrist, St George's Hospital Medical School*

Perspectives in Psychiatry. Edited by PETER HALL and PETER D. STONIER. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. 1988. 198 pp. £21.50.

This is a collection of 17 papers based on lectures given at Worcester between 1980 and 1987 and sponsored by drug firms. The authors are established (and mainly 'establishment') figures in psychiatry – all, significantly, men, and all white. The book is edited by two men, one a consultant at Worcester and the other a medical director of a drug firm.

The topics addressed in the book are varied, ranging from community psychiatry to pain, and from brain damage to puerperal disorders. The chapters are all written in a 'narrative' style. Each addresses a single topic, in most cases rather too broad in scope for the author to even attempt at being comprehensive. On the whole, the topics are dealt with in a traditional – almost old-fashioned – way. For example, the paper on schizophrenia may easily have come from a textbook written in the 1960s, and the paper on the treatment of depression is exclusively about the use of drugs and ECT. Three papers can be picked out as offering something in the way of new ideas and critical comments on the topics they address. Firstly, Birley's essay on community psychiatry is a useful discussion of the current scene from a traditional point of view. Secondly, Eames gives a good insight into the practicalities of dealing with patients with difficult behaviour. Finally, Bergman's rather discursive essay states bluntly the problems involved in carrying out 'preventive psychiatry' among the elderly.

This book is a collection of essays which are readable and fairly light reading. As a book, it does not make a substantive contribution to knowledge, but may be recommended as an adjunct to introductory lectures on psychiatry for, say, medical students or other professionals.

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Computer Models of the Mind: Computational Approaches in Theoretical Psychology. By MARGARET BODEN. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1988. 289 pp. £10.95 (pb), £30.00 (hb).

This is not just another artificial intelligence textbook; it is a journey through the uses of computational methods in simulating mental processes. It complements very well Boden's previous well-known book, *Artificial Intelligence and Natural Man*.

There are chapters on vision, natural language processing, reasoning, and learning. The book concludes with a discussion of the aims of 'computational psychology' and of the advantages and disadvantages of this approach to the development of theories. Boden is an acknowledged expert in this field, and writes with authority and style.

This is one of the first in the new breed of introductory book specifically addressing the issue of modelling cognitive processes as opposed to simple (!) writing programs which perform "intelligently". There is a great deal of fascinating research in this area which has not previously been covered in such books, and it is encouraging to see that this book does a good job of including such material. There are the old chestnuts such as Marr's theory of vision, which are probably dealt with at too great a length, but new approaches (including the 'connectionist' approach which is causing much excitement) are well represented. Attempts are made where possible to evaluate some of the models against hard

evidence, and the tone of the book is appropriately cautious about the success or otherwise of current efforts.

This book will certainly be used in psychology undergraduate and postgraduate courses. I would like to think that it would be of interest to clinical psychologists and psychiatrists also, despite the concentration on normal cognitive functioning as opposed to disordered functioning and emotional and motivational models.

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A Fresh Look at Psychoanalysis: The View from Self Psychology. By ARNOLD GOLDBERG. Hemel Hempstead: International Book Distributors. 1988. 275 pp. £22.95.

Goldberg enters the debate between psychoanalytical self-psychology and the classical theory as a supporter of Kohut, but one determined to avoid polarisation or blurrings of the positions. His 18 chapters, half of them reprinted articles, provide a well-written commentary on the relation of Kohut's theory and practice to the traditional model.

Kohut, having originally tried to locate the self in the ego, id, and superego, gave up the attempt to place or define it. Goldberg goes a little further, suggesting that it is a structure, enduring through time, to be understood in terms of connections, a characteristic configuration, and personal meanings. In its development, a crucial role is accorded to appropriate 'mirroring'; empathic breaks with parents are seen as the prime cause of psychopathology, and their recognition and repair in the analyst's therapeutic mirroring is seen as the work of therapy. Associated with this is the concept of the 'selfobject', by which is meant another person seen as part of, or psychically necessary to, the individual.

As Goldberg points out, these propositions are opposed to or separate from those of classical psychoanalysis, hence the debate. In his view psychoanalytical science is concerned solely with the analytic encounter. This encounter is shaped, observed and reported by the participant analysts and, quite predictably, their descriptions and reports vary enormously between different groups of analysts. The attempt to claim that these disagreements amount to competing paradigms does not hold up. In any case, the field of a given science is defined by its phenomena, not by the observer's favourite instrument, and a scientific psychoanalysis would have to align itself with all the other studies of personal interaction, personality structure, emotion, and so on.

It is likely that the main readership addressed by this book will be relatively unconcerned by the issue of scientific or hermeneutic respectability, but they will be hoping for a full discussion of practices and beliefs. In this respect I found Goldberg's choice of opposition – a loosely identified classical stance – disappointing. How is it that Kernberg gets only two brief mentions and that the British object relations school only rates a brief inaccurate comment on the transitional object, described as "part of an overall, albeit somewhat poorly articulated, theory developed by Winnicott, who was joined later by others such as Guntrip and Fairbairn"? So object relations, splitting, and projective identification – which to my mind can incorporate the ideas encapsulated in the idea of the selfobject and go a long way further, as a key to understanding personality, than does self theory – are entirely ignored.

In the end, we are offered a look at a version of psychoanalysis from one corner of it. Had psychoanalysis been less closed the debate would not have been necessary at all, for the idea of the self has received plenty of attention in other branches of psychology, quite apart from being a dominant concept in literature and in everyday life. Given its curious neglect, we can at least welcome the introduction into psychoanalysis of the view that the central focus of interpretation should be the patient's self-integrity, however slippery the psychoanalytic self continues to be.

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The Art of Intervention in Dynamic Psychotherapy. By BERT L. KAPLAN. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson. 1988. 263 pp. $25.00.

Psychotherapy trainees and their teachers will find this a valuable book. Trainees are often confused by the variety and complexity of the schools of psychodynamic thought, and at a loss as to how to translate the metapsychological concepts of the differing theories into useful therapeutic interventions with their patients. The book shows how one experienced clinician translates these relatively experience-distant developmental and clinical theories into meaningful, experience-near interventions.

Extensive verbatim transcripts of therapy with seven patients, interwoven with the author's comments, self-analysis, and clinical formulations, are used to show how different perspectives can be applied and integrated to provide a more complete diagnostic picture. It becomes apparent that different theories emphasise different aspects of the patient's experience more than they offer differing explanations.

The major theoretical perspectives which form the book are Hartmann's ego psychology, Mahler's separation individuation developmental model, and Spitz's object relations theory. These provide welcome expositions of significant transatlantic theorists probably unfamiliar to most UK trainees.

The seven cases are described in a clear and lively manner. The author's thought processes and how he combines these with his countertransference responses and knowledge of theoretical concepts to develop