those who are concerned with the use of groups as therapeutic agents. The authors discuss the difficulties of communication across professional boundaries, and an important theme of the book is how the communication of ideas between one profession and another may be achieved or frustrated. Despite the current vogue for the multidisciplinary approach, the problem of interdisciplinary communication is a serious one. The next decade may well see profound changes in the relationship between psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers who are not only interrelated in their professional roles but also are frequently cast as teachers of each other. The authors hint at a tendency of psychiatrists who teach other professions either to denigrate psychiatry or to be so infatuated with their own narrow view of their specialty that they fail to acknowledge the importance of work outside the mainstream of their own profession. There is a notable tendency for one discipline to try and undermine the value of work carried out by another. A frequent message is—'I haven't time so will you take on some of my cases?' The patient is not likely to be pleased if he feels the treatment he has been offered is second best.

Another important theme is the attempt to classify and distinguish different forms of group work. To do this the authors have divided groups into three different categories, namely group psychotherapy, group counselling and group discussion. The authors describe their own conceptual framework for these three systems, including the actual proceedings of the group, the group processes, the group leadership and the ways in which the aims of the group may be achieved. A substantial part of the book devotes itself to distinguishing the three systems, considering their own particular characteristics and examining areas of overlap and techniques which are common to all three systems. In all types of group there is a responsibility for the leader to see that the group exists as a group and to help the group to function in the way it is intended to function.

In conclusion, the authors deal with the sorts of communication that are likely to be made by the different sorts of group leader. The group discussion leader will ask, 'What else?' or 'In what way?' focusing on the group topic. The group counsellor will ask, 'How else?' or 'Who else?' or 'When else?' The group psychotherapist wanting to lead to the unconscious process will ask, 'How come?' These are some of the interesting questions raised in this book, which is warmly commended to psychiatrists, social workers and psychologists who are interested in groups as ways of helping and communicating with others.

JOHN HARRINGTON.

Group Processes. Edited by PETER B. SMITH. Penguin Modern Psychology Readings. Penguin Books Ltd., Middlesex. 1970. Pp. 454. Price 60p.

Group therapists are apt to think about small group processes only in the light of their own theoretical framework and training. This volume reminds psychiatrists of a tendency to tunnel vision and of the wide areas of research going on outside the clinical field.

Many of the chapters are reprints from previous publications and other sections are excerpts from already published volumes. There is as a consequence an unevenness in style and readability, so that this is a book to be dipped into rather than read consecutively. The volume is divided into six parts. The first three deal with definitions, structural and interpersonal models; the fourth deals with role theory in relation to groups, while the fifth deals essentially with experimental studies of behavioural changes occurring in small groups. Part VI deals with the important topic of intergroup relationships, and the chapter by M. Sherif on group conflict and co-operation will interest those who are concerned with intergroup relationships within hospital communities.

Much of the content is of a social psychological nature and has little directly of interest for the psychiatrist who uses groups as part of his therapeutic approach, but any researcher into groups will find a fountain of information and many useful references.

JOHN HARRINGTON.

PHARMACOLOGY

Amphetamines and Related Compounds. Edited by E. COSTA and S. GARATTINI. 1970. Proceedings of an International Symposium. Milan. Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company. Pp. 976. Price £13.40.

It seems strange perhaps that a book of this size should be produced concerning a compound which is now regarded as having only limited therapeutic value, and indeed in many places may be withdrawn from prescription.

The reason for this apparent anomaly is not difficult to find, for we see that many of the contributors have used the drug as a tool to investigate the autonomic and central nervous systems. The contributions range over a wide area, from the studies of structure activity relationships of amphetamine and its derivatives to clinical reports of ampheta-

mine psychosis. The book is authoritative, managing at the same time to provide a review of the development of these compounds and also to present stimulating new ideas on the functions of amine-containing systems in brain; it is for these new insights that most people will read it. Psychiatrists will find much of interest, and perhaps the most intriguing development is the suggestion running through many of the contributions that dopamine may have an important role to play in the behavioural changes brought about by the drug. This is illustrated in particular by the papers of Fuxe and Ungerstedt and by Carlsson, applying a dazzling series of experiments using drug combinations to show that the release of dopamine in the brain after amphetamine causes the appearance of stereotype behaviour, whereas the release of noradrenaline gives rise to excitation and to increased exploratory behaviour.

The American contribution led by Axelrod is no less formidable. Here they are for the most part concerned with the role of metabolites of amphetamine formed *in vivo* in determing the pharmacological effects, in particular the effects on brain noradrenaline levels. Many of these studies concern the metabolite p-hydroxy-norephedine which may function as a false transmitter in noradrenaline-containing nerve endings.

The clinical studies are of necessity less direct in their examination of changes in the brain, but ingenious application of indirect methods, such as Oswald's studies on sleep, demonstrate that the effects of amphetamine outlive the period of amphetamine administration and suggest that adaptive processes are involved during amphetamine addiction which take a period of several weeks to return to normal.

Studies of amphetamine psychosis by Griffith *et al.*, and by Jonsson and Gunne indicate that stereotyped behaviour may be a feature of the clinical syndrome and raise the possibility that dopamine as well as noradrenaline-containing neurones may be affected. It seems that whilst we may be near to discarding the drug as a therapeutic tool, we must still persist with our efforts to understand its modes of action, as this information may provide us with a key to the further elucidation of the functional psychosis.

In summary, I would advise any psychiatrist with a smattering of pharmacological knowledge to browse through this book. Whilst he may be dismayed by the complexity of the subject, nevertheless he must come away from it with new and stimulating thoughts regarding his patients and the drugs he treats them with.

G. W. ASHCROFT.

REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Modern Trends in Psychological Medicine—2. Edited by JOHN HARDING PRICE. Butterworth. 1970. Pp. 381. Price £5.50.

According to the editor this volume aims 'to span the gap of years since the appearance of the earlier edition' (in 1948) and he claims it 'reflects those parts of the subject in which there is much authoritative agreement'.

The subjects covered are, in order, cytogenetics (Penrose), effects of ageing on professional pilots (Szafran), sleep, dreams and drugs (Oswald), biochemical changes in schizophrenia (Tanimukai and Himwich), stress and mental disorder (Cooper and Shepherd), anorexia nervosa (Russell), reactive depression (Roth and Kerr), treatment and outcome of schizophrenia (Mandelbrote), the therapeutic community (Price), behaviour therapy (Brady), supportive psychotherapy (Stafford-Clark) and various aspects of temporal lobe lesions and epilepsy (Corsellis, Driver, Falconer and Taylor).

With such a large field of choice, selection of topics is inevitably arbitrary, even idiosyncratic. In this collection one must question whether temporal lobe disorders really warrant 20 per cent of the whole book, and some contribution from geriatric psychiatry other than the ageing of professional pilots would perhaps have had a wider appeal. Nor is there any mention of pharmacotherapy, surely an important trend of the past two decades. However, those topics that are included are reviewed competently, and, in some cases brilliantly.

This is a useful collection of articles both for D.P.M. students and for experienced psychiatrists wishing to keep up to date.

Can we expect Vol. 3 before 1992?

K. DAVISON.

The Psychology of Suicide. By EDWIN S. SHNEIDMAN, NORMAN L. FARBEROW and ROBERT E. LITMAN. Science House, New York. 1970. Pp. xvi + 719. Price $15.00.

This thick tome comes from the Suicide Prevention Centre of Los Angeles, with which all the authors are associated. They have collected 44 of their previously published papers and have packed them between hard covers. This, then, is not a book but a