

be said in its favour? Dr. Ambrose and Dr. Newbold are practitioners of the art of hypnosis with years of experience, and as a source book for good ideas and acute and nice observations this book has its value—as indeed had so much of the old-time Victoriana. A section on the use of hypnosis in general medicine is well written, and sections on anaesthesia, dermatology and obstetrics report interesting experience. The parts of the book which deal with psychiatric application of hypnosis are naive. Those few instances in which hypnotic treatment has been made the subject of controlled investigation are not reported.

To regard hypnosis as all quackery, as a subject unworthy of serious attention, would today be absurd. Whether hypnotic phenomena are viewed as potentially explicable within a framework of neurophysiological postulates, of learning theories, or of dynamic psychology, hypnosis obviously remains as something which has to be explained. To dismiss its therapeutic potential would be ill-judged. The value of the present book is not that it carries understanding one whit further, but that it gives raw material for thought.

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4. FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

Unzucht mit Kindern. (Sexual Offences against Children.) By R. WYSS. Monographien aus dem Gesamtgebiete der Neurologie und Psychiatrie. No. 121. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer. 1967. Pp. 72. Price \$7.40.

Since the Second World War there has been a sharp increase in sexual offences coming before the courts. In Switzerland, for instance, the figures per 100,000 population were 66.2 in 1942, 111.9 in 1952, and 137.1 in 1961. The author states that the majority of these are sexual offences against children under 16 years of age. Yet very few systematic studies on paedophilia have been reported. The present study presents the findings on 160 male cases convicted of paedophilia, and pays attention to clinical as well as to social factors possibly involved. The sample, although consisting of a series of "unselected" consecutive cases (all of them citizens of the Canton Berne) who had been referred to a psychiatrist by a court, is nevertheless rather biased. It appears the courts usually deal directly with cases which seem to them straightforward, and refer to psychiatrists only those offenders who are suspected of being in need of psychiatric attention.

The description of that group is very informative. All age groups are represented from 20 to over 60. In 52.5 per cent. the offences were against girls, in 21.8 per cent. against boys, in 5 per cent. against

both, and in 20.6 per cent. the offence was incestuous, i.e. it involved the offenders' own children, grandchildren, siblings or half-siblings. After an extensive analysis of his findings the author comes to the conclusion that paedophile sex offenders always show other psychiatric abnormalities and the "normal" paedophile offender does not exist. In view of the mode of selection of his sample this is hardly surprising. Although a specific personality type as such, associated with this offence, could not be identified, the different groups of offenders show distinctive characteristics. The homosexual paedophiles often show an infantile character or are sexual neurotics, with homosexuality established very early; the heterosexuals are on the whole less disturbed but have a weak sex drive. The bisexual offenders are all very abnormal, and show a strong sexual drive which tends to seek relief rather suddenly and indiscriminately. The incestuous group tend to come from disturbed families, are often weak-willed and alcoholics. The offenders, it appears, also show different characteristics if classified according to the age of the child they have assaulted.

In discussing the question whether paedophilia is a perversion in the true sense, the author reports that with the exception of the homosexuals all offenders seem, in their phantasy, to wish for a grown up woman as sexual partner, and that their contact with a child constitutes as it were a failure to achieve this rather than the fulfilment of a constant specific desire. In that sense, he suggests, one should not speak of a "true" perversion but should use the term "pseudoperversion". The homosexual offenders, on the other hand, seem to be specifically attracted to young boys in their sexual day-dreams; they therefore show a "true" perversion. It is not surprising that his group also shows a marked recidivism in contrast to the heterosexual offenders.

The book offers interesting and valuable information, but the mode of selection of the sample limits the extent to which one can generalize from this group. This has not been stressed by the author when discussing his findings. The study also shows tantalizing gaps, such as that the children were not studied in detail, and in particular that they were not followed up, but perhaps that material will appear in a later publication.

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5. COMMUNIST PSYCHIATRY

Psychiatry in the Communist World. Edited by ARI KIEV. New York: Science House. 1968. Pp. 276. Price not given.

A number of books have recently appeared which make a distinction between psychiatry as it is prac-