

Most suffer from a lack of clear planning and economy of presentation, which might have been less marked if publication had been the original intention of the contributors. There is also a tendency for most of the authors to make authoritative assumptions, occasionally illustrated but seldom validated by clinical anecdotes, reflecting the prevailing psycho-analytic influence. There is a noticeable reluctance to state the extent of the clinical material referred to, which might suggest to the sceptical reader that either few records were being kept or that numbers were not large enough to justify such authoritative conclusions. In only one paper, *Families Out of Wedlock*, by Elizabeth Hertzog, are any sort of statistics given.

The book is in five parts. The first aim was to give some basic principles of family system theory. Anyone expecting from this a tidy theoretical model will be disappointed. The gist of family system theory, as described here, is that individual members of a family inter-relate to form a family group, and consequently the individual should not be viewed in isolation from his family; an important basic principle but hardly a theoretical system.

The second section is on socio-economic and cultural factors in sexual delinquency. This does include some interesting observations about deprived families and their cultural backgrounds, although there is a tendency for a middle-class standard to be taken as the yardstick of normality.

The other three sections are on 'Psycho-dynamic factors and sexual delinquency', 'Family interactional factors and sexual delinquency', and 'Family therapy applications'. There is little of note in any of these papers, though the reviewer found Tessman and Kaufman's paper 'Variations on a theme of incest' more helpful than the rest.

In general this is an unimpressive book. Readers who are not adverse to psychoanalytically based concepts may glean some quite interesting and stimulating ideas which are scattered through the book, but as a source of useful facts it is quite barren.

JOHN BANCROFT.

HOMOSEXUALITY

The Other Love. By H. MONTGOMERY HYDE. Heinemann, 1970. Pp. 323. Price 60s.

The sub-title—An Historical and Contemporary Survey of Homosexuality in Britain—accurately describes the scope of this book. The author has written over 30 books, mainly historical and biographical; but he started his career as a barrister, and from 1950–59 he was Ulster Unionist M.P. for

North Belfast and was an active campaigner for reform in the homosexuality laws.

From this background it is not surprising that the best parts of the book are those concerned with the legal, political and historical aspects of the subject. His account of the contemporary scene and possible future developments is marred by a rather dated outlook on the technical (medico-psychological) aspects, relying too heavily on the Wolfenden Report. There is also some confusion over terminology, e.g. hermaphroditism (p. 21), but nonetheless he manages to dispel a number of popular myths.

The more notorious cases are quoted and set in their social and historical context; these tend to be the more psychopathic ones, often bisexual, promiscuous and guilty of a variety of offences rather than of a simple homosexual indiscretion.

The Victorian period is well documented; the author is already known for his studies of Oscar Wilde. Obviously not everyone with alleged homosexual propensities could be mentioned; although he discusses some prominent politicians he does not mention Canning or Disraeli.

Whilst he makes a commendable effort to include lesbianism in his survey there are many omissions; for instance Edith Lees who later became Mrs. Havelock Ellis, Olive Schreiner, and particularly Marian Evans (George Eliot) who seemed to attract more than her fair share of female admirers. This would also be a good opportunity for discussing the possible effects of the female emancipation movement with its background of feminine militancy.

The book is divided into eight chapters, is well written and adequately documented with references and footnotes in the text and a very good general index. There is also a select bibliography, which might have included *Sex in History* by G. R. Taylor, London, 1953, and *Feasting with Panthers* by R. Croft-Cooke, London, 1967.

There is much here to interest the majority of psychiatrists, and while it is obviously not the definitive work on the subject it is a very able and interesting introduction.

F. E. KENYON.

INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

Social Psychiatry. Vol. XLVII. Research Publications of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. Edited by F. C. REDLICH. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd., for Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1969. Pp. 354. Price £10.

Knowledge of the large and well-known series

of reports by the A.R.N.M.D. well justifies a welcome greeting to this, the 47th volume, devoted to the broadest field yet attempted by the Association. The introduction defines social psychiatry as the study of the impact of the social environment on the aetiology, treatment and prevention of behaviour disorders, placing the subject on the border-line of psychiatry, sociology and social psychology. The varied subject matter in 22 chapters by 31 eminent authors exemplifies the breadth of this definition, but to embrace the equally varied approaches taken in research the inverse is of growing importance.

Many of the topics are of international interest, such as race relations, the effects of persecution, and psychotherapy for the working class patient. There are also careful re-examinations of more familiar fields of research; and as the varied approaches box a compass of epidemiology, administration, group dynamics and psychopathology, a psychiatrist, whatever his preference, can orientate himself comfortably. Among a number of studies containing sophisticated statistical analysis is the enviable assessment of mental disorder in a total population in Sweden in which the index used is the proportion of healthy individuals who will subsequently develop psychiatric disorder. Fundamentals are reviewed throughout, but the article clearly subtitled 'Can we tell causes from consequences?' gives a salutary warning with constructive advice. An epidemiological study of mild mental subnormality restores to prominence the nature-nurture controversy in precise terms, and the study of community psychiatry is well represented in several other chapters.

The significance of this collective work by those eminent in the field reaches far beyond its immediate content, focusing attention on the role of social psychiatry, the interest of its specialists, and the need for a perspective view in all branches of psychiatry. Other aspects portrayed occasionally in words, but often seen between the lines, and appearing conclusively from the work as a whole are the inseparable progressive developments of formal power to influence the political scene and the accelerated evolution of international understanding of universal problems by direct scientific approaches. These aspects in the setting of increasing world need make the current appearance of this work particularly timely.

Congratulations are due to the editor, authors and discussants on achieving a uniform high standard in this work of strong, but subtle, potential, and to the publishers for maintaining unchanged the delightful format of this series for half a century.

JOHN POLLITT

E.S.B. AND PSYCHOGENESIS

Physical Control of the Mind: Toward a Psychocivilized Society. By JOSE M. R. DELGADO. World Perspectives. Vol. XLI. Planned and Edited by Ruth Nanda Anshen. Harper & Row, New York. 1969. Pp. 281. Price \$7.95.

Dr. Delgado, Professor of Physiology at Yale University was invited to write this book for World Perspectives series. According to the editor 'This series is committed to a re-examination of all those sides of human endeavour which the specialist was taught to believe he could safely leave aside.' The ultimate aim is to integrate mankind so that man may channel his resources into a productive meaningful and creative harmony. The previous 40 volumes in the series deal with a bewildering variety of topics, mainly philosophical and religious. The supposition is that a reader of the series after digesting all these various aspects of human knowledge would be able to conceptualize it in a coherent form. The author is therefore encouraged to venture into fields outside his specialty, which has obvious pitfalls.

Although Professor Delgado has tried to present the difficult subject of E.S.B. (electrical stimulation of the brain) in a simplified manner, a basic knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology is essential to an understanding of the book. Part I deals with the evolution of the environment and the different forms of life through the ages. It is suggested that the evolution of man has now reached a critical turning point when mind can influence its own structure, functions and purpose (p. 19). In Part II, mind is defined as the 'intracerebral elaboration of extracerebral information' (p. 65), which means that the 'cerebral activity is essentially dependent on sensory inputs from the environment not only at birth but also throughout life' (p. 59).

Part III is devoted to the results of experiments by the author and his colleagues on animals and human subjects, which demonstrate the potential of electrical stimulation of various parts of the brain for modification of simple behaviour. In this section the author gets carried away and at one point states that '... the procedure (electrode implantation) has been used in specialized medical centres around the world to help thousands of patients suffering from epilepsy, involuntary movements, intractable pain, anxiety neuroses and other cerebral disturbances' (p. 88). The following pages give an account of the remarkable results of the successful experiments, and one is led to imagine that the control of human behaviour by ESB could be possible in the very near future. However, in Part IV the author presents