were nearly always classified in the same terms, schizoid, otherwise abnormal, or normal. It is a pity that in this instance the personalities of the DZ twins are not reported in the same way, but the marked degree of similarity between the MZ pairs certainly suggests that aspects of personality are under genetic influence. The third observation was that when the index twin's personality was abnormal his MZ co-twin was likely to be schizophrenic. In other words, co-twins who did not themselves suffer from schizophrenia tended to be paired with index cases whose personalities were normal. The explanation of these findings may be that schizophrenia is not genetically homogeneous. The authors themselves favour a diathesis-stress model in which the importance of either factor may vary from patient to patient: the majority of illnesses are mainly biologically determined, a few are mainly due to environmental stress, and there are others which are symptomatic of another disease altogether (e.g. alcoholism, epilepsy).

The precise relationship between premorbid personality and the actual psychosis is of course still unclear. The attempt to measure traits of personality by psychological tests ran into difficulties but was encouraging enough to stimulate further efforts. As regards the stress side of the model, the authors believe that this may be so difficult to pin down and define because the stresses involved are essentially idiosyncratic and personal. The genetic factor on the other hand is thought of as specific. This point is taken up by Meehl, who asks in what sense inheritance can at the same time be polygenic *and* specific. Meehl's lively 'afterword', in which he raises many awkward and fundamental questions, is well worth reading for its own sake.

As the authors are at pains to emphasize, the fact that heritability in schizophrenia is very high does not imply that curative or preventive measures will be ineffective, only that the environment (which includes the internal milieu) will need to be altered outside the range of naturally occurring environments. That there is a tremendous scope for influencing the course of schizophrenic illnesses is clear not only from the fact that concordance rates in MZ twins are well below 100 per cent, but also from the differences in length of hospital care between members of a pair, even when both are monozygotic and concordant for schizophrenia. This offers a challenge and a hope for the future.

This book shows what a wealth of information, ideas and illuminating sidelights can still be generated by twin studies, when they are imaginatively designed and carried through with rigour combined with sensitivity. It will be read by everyone who is seriously interested in the aetiology of schizophrenia.

D. W. K. KAY.

BEREAVEMENT

The Child in his Family, Vol. 2: The Impact of Disease and Death. Edited by E. JAMES ANTHONY and CYRILLE KOUPERNIK. John Wiley and Sons. 1973. Pp. xxi+509. Index 3 pp. Price £8.00.

This second volume of *The Child in his Family* takes as its theme the variety of reactions that children and their parents show to the impact of disease, dying and death.

The contributions from a wide range of descriptions are grouped into seven sections, which include death and sickness in childhood, parricide, childhood suicide, the children of survivors of the holocaust, and the transcultural experience of disability, dying and death. I found this a difficult book to review dispassionately, as although a fair number of the individual chapters appear to be inadequate and poorly argued this seems far less important than the impression created by the book as a whole. By bringing together these painful topics in one volume it is as though the editors have broken the modern taboo about death (Gorer is amongst the contributors), and it is enriching and rewarding to see how different authors have been able to deal clinically with these extreme situations.

The most unsatisfying sections are those which purport to be reviews of the literature and accounts of research, almost all being inadequate. In contrast, however, are the more anecdotal sections, which are frequently poignant and stark. Outstanding is the one by Vernick in which he describes his work in a children's leukaemia unit; the agony and rewards of his work being seen through the quotations and comments of the children.

This book should be seen by all who work with children in hospital. Many of the chapters could be used as bases for staff discussions about subjects that too often we dare not face.

STEPHEN WOLKIND.

INTERACTION

Social Interaction. By MICHAEL ARGYLE. Tavistock Publications. 1973. Pp. 504. Price £1.70.

This is a paperback version of the book published first in 1969 and should bring the work before the wider audience it undoubtedly deserves. It is indeed a *tour de force*. In one respect, it is a textbook of social psychology and includes all the important subjects normally dealt with in such works—perception, small

group interaction, social organizations, culture, etc. But it contains an added dimension, that of Argyle's own interest in non-verbal behaviour—bodily contact, proximity, orientation, gestures, face and eye movements, and the non-verbal components of speech. This breakdown of social interaction into its component parts permeates the book, making it much more interesting and enjoyable to read than a standard psychology textbook. Another virtue in this book is the thoroughness with which the material is reviewed. References to research work abound and each experiment is presented in a factual manner, with clear indications as to its significance. As in most textbooks, there are a large number of unsupported statements, drawn from 'common knowledge', introspection, etc., but these are clearly distinguished from research findings and in many cases are both convincing and thought-provoking.

The writing is clear and at 500 pages the book is remarkably concise; but it is rather closely packed, as well as being at times oversimplified, and is not easy to read quickly. However, the close study necessary to absorb the knowledge contained in it is amply repaid, and students of social psychology will find the book a mine of essential information. Many other areas of study are touched on, for instance linguistics, ethology and anthropology. Psychiatry, too, is dealt with in the framework of the general method used in the book. Description of the various psychiatric conditions is made in terms of limitation or alteration of social interaction; and much is made of the non-verbal aspects of interaction in the various types of mental disorder. For instance, disturbance of social eye-movements (direction of gaze etc.) is common to several disorders, and in some disorders (hysteria and schizophrenia, for instance) peculiarities of posture, gesture, facial expression and tone of voice seem to play an important role. Other aspects of social interaction, such as the low 'rewardingness' of mental patients and their tendency to talk about themselves more than controls do, are discussed in an illuminating way. This section of the book, and those on self-image and the treatment of social inadequacy, might well be made required reading for psychiatrists in training.

There are one or two notable omissions. Family therapy, in which many practitioners make active use of non-verbal communication and interpret this in the session itself, is not mentioned: it is, however, a relatively new discipline and may well be included in another edition. The token economy programme and similar aspects of the application of behavioural psychology to solving interpersonal problems are not mentioned. However, such small omissions in such a comprehensive coverage detract little from the general value of the book, which is highly recommended.

M. CROWE.

BRIEF REVIEWS

Indecent Exposure. By JOHN M. MACDONALD. Springfield: C. C. Thomas. 1973. Pp. ix+164. Index 5 pp. Price $7.95.

This latest addition to Dr. MacDonald's growing set of forensic monographs uses much the same format as previous ones, and is particularly comparable to *Rape: Offenders and their Victims* (1), some cases being used as illustration in both books. As there is very little in the way of undisputed factual data for the author to call upon, he has to content himself with case descriptions, a review of the somewhat anecdotal literature available, and a discussion of the legal issues involved. The book is no less valuable for these limitations, although the English literature could have been covered more fully, and it is a deficiency that Rooth's work (2) has been omitted. I found the chapters on the law and on treatment particularly helpful. However, I think British readers, especially students, should put the eagerness for compulsory treatment, which is displayed at one point, into their own cultural context where compulsion is largely determined by courts for the public interest, and treatment is a decision taken by the patient at a later stage if he chooses. The nightmare of the American sexual psychopath laws is well brought out.

JOHN GUNN.

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Psychological Consultation with a Police Department. A demonstration of cooperative training in mental health. By PHILIP A. MANN. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973. Pp. 165. Price $9.50.

The cover note on this book points out that policemen are called upon to provide a service to people with problems with greater relative frequency than they are required to intervene in criminal matters. Most psychiatrists, particularly those developing their community relationships, are well aware that the police pay an important role in the management of many forms of psychiatric illness. They are often the first to be involved with the paranoid old lady, as well as with the disturbed adolescent. This book