

autonomic learning theory. For example, he postulated that through conditioning a variety of *new* stimuli may evoke a given physiological response pattern; and that patterns may be selectively learned by differential reinforcement. Lachman's theory encompasses genetic and environmental predisposition, individual differences, and the psychosomatic vicious circle; he considers its application to the common psychosomatic conditions but mentions their treatment only briefly.

The book contains an extremely useful set of testable hypotheses.

H. G. S. SERGEANT.

LSD

LSD: Personality and Experience. By HARRIET LINTON BARR, ROBERT J. LANGS, ROBERT R. HOLT, LEO GOLDBERGER and GEORGE S. KLEIN. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. Pp. 247. Price £4.50.

Is throwing a psychoactive spanner into the works a promising strategy for investigating the functioning of the brain? The authors describe an experiment in which they gave 100 micrograms of LSD to each of

30 out-of-work actors. During the course of the experimental day the Rorschach test and a variety of questionnaires were administered, and the experimenters made observations. There was a 20 subject control group, but the fact that only a placebo had been administered was obvious to subjects and experimenters alike.

The results are interpreted within a psychoanalytic framework. The main conclusion is that the effect of the drug on any individual is predictable in terms of that individual's personality. The work was carried out in 1959, and thus at a time when cultural expectations as to the likely nature of LSD's effects would not have been as strong a set as they would be today.

The authors are clearly dealing with enormously important matters, for they are attempting to make higher-order mental functioning into experiment. The reader is left with respect for their daring—but also with very considerable doubt as to how their undoubtedly fascinating data are to be interpreted. We know too little about the machine and much too little about the spanner for this sort of approach to offer much illumination.

GRIFFITH EDWARDS.