

into a new coherent theory of consciousness. Very few contemporary heads could do this with the evident competence of Ey, who seems equally at home in all these areas and can bend what seems useful to him into an organic whole of his own creation. Whether he has in fact succeeded one will only be able to judge later.

The book is not easy to read but is well worth the effort.
J. HOENIG.

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Experimental Psychology: its scope and method.

I. History and method. By JEAN PIAGET, PAUL FRAISSE and MAURICE REUHLIN. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1968. Pp. 245. 35s.

This book is of such unusually high quality that reading it produced something akin to catharsis in me. I am certain that my health has been improved, and the medicine is available to others.

This is the first volume of a nine-volume handbook of experimental psychology, edited by Fraisse and Piaget. It is concerned with history and method, but let me assure the reader immediately that this is not tedious. There is the all-pervading influence of Piaget; and there is a 'foreignness' about the writers (compared with Anglo-American), who at the same time differ in their approach but are spontaneous and friendly in style.

The most interesting section is undoubtedly the first (Fraisse), which is historical. The contribution of workers from many countries is discussed, including those not over-represented in our texts, like France and Russia. This section discusses philosophical, experimental, statistical, medical and comparative approaches. The second section is on experimental method (Fraisse) which deals with observation, hypotheses, types of experiment and analysis of results; and there is another section on measurement, especially scaling methods (Reuchlin). These are thoughtful and quite straightforward.

Piaget contributes a section on Explanation in psychology and psychophysiological parallelism which is tough—the toughest forty pages in the book. It is highly abstract and closely argued. Discussion at this level is compulsive reading for me, but I inevitably find myself asking what 'use' it is, and whether it would not be better to go and 'do' an experiment.

This comprehensive handbook with Piaget among the editors is a significant event in psychological publishing. I look forward enthusiastically to the later volumes, especially those on the more complex aspects of personality from the standpoint of these eminent experimentalists.

SIDNEY CROWN.

A STANDARD WORK

Der Balkenmangel (Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum). By F. UNTERHARNSCHIEDT, D. JACHNIK and H. GOTT. Monographien aus dem Gesamtgebiete der Neurologie und Psychiatrie No. 128. Berlin-Heidelberg: Springer Verlag. 1968. Pp. 232. Price DM. 68.

The book, which is dedicated to Hugo Spatz on his eightieth birthday, is an up-to-date survey of the symptomatology, patho-physiology and anatomy of this rare but important condition, and a report of thirty-three cases observed by the authors. Dr. Unterharnscheidt is Chief of the Division of Neuropathology, Experimental Neurosurgery and Experimental Neurology of the University of Texas. The first symptoms were usually observed in childhood; they were cerebral seizures, mental retardation and organic personality changes.

The diagnosis can be confirmed only by pneumoencephalography. Hallucinations and delusions are rare. There is a comprehensive bibliography of the world literature on the subject. A syndrome typical of tumours involving the corpus callosum does not exist.

This book, which has a fairly detailed summary in English, is a worthy successor to Mingazzini's monograph (1922), and is sure to become a standard work to be consulted by neuropathologists, neurologists and by experts in mental subnormality.

E. STENDEL.

PHARMACOLOGY

Non-specific Factors in Drug Therapy. Edited by K. RICKELS. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1969. Pp. 149. Price \$7.75.

The idea has become established that the actions of any drug as observed in clinical practice can be divided into two parts, firstly, the pharmacodynamic actions attributable to the direct, specific properties of the drug, secondly, those not so attributable, the 'non-specific factors'. The latter are dependent on complex interactions involving the therapist, the patient, the social milieu and the act of giving tablets itself. These non-specific factors are most important, as Hamilton puts it, with respect to 'small treatments and small illnesses'. As the majority of our pharmacotherapies in psychiatry are only moderately effective, the need to examine closely the factors governing the non-specific elements of drug response is apparent.

This book contains the separately published proceedings of one of the sessions of the Fourth World Congress of Psychiatry held in Madrid in September, 1966. The session was organized and chaired by