

Reviews

The Clinical Examination of Patients with Organic Cerebral Disease. By ROBERT KLEIN and W. MAYER-GROSS. Cassell and Company Ltd., London, 1957. Pp. 96. Price 15s.

A sound knowledge of the disturbances of the higher cerebral functions is essential to the psychiatrist for the diagnosis, treatment and management of his patients. It is also of fundamental importance for the understanding of abnormal behaviour in general. Yet it is only too common for psychiatrists to misdiagnose aphasia as confusion or dementia. This important area of neuro-psychiatry is badly neglected today, even in the country of Hughlings Jackson and Henry Head. The authors of this excellent book deserve gratitude for presenting a guide to the study of disturbances of cerebral functions of the highest level of integration. Both authors speak with authority, having themselves made important original contributions in this field. It is of interest that Dr. Klein's first teacher was Alois Pick who pioneered the psychological approach in neuro-psychiatry. The book deals with the diagnosis and investigation of patients suffering from aphasia, agnosia, spatial disorientation, disorders of the time sense, apraxia, tactile agnosia and disturbances of the body image. It has a very useful bibliography. This book ought to be read and used by all students and practitioners of psychiatry, neurology, and geriatrics. Sir Russell Brain, in his appreciative foreword, rightly states that it fulfils a real need.

There is only one suggestion this reviewer would like to offer for the next edition, i.e. an alteration of the title which in its present wording does not clearly define the subject matter of the book.

E. STENGEL.

On the Mysterious Leap from the Mind to the Body. A Workshop Study of the Theory of Conversion. Edited by FELIX DEUTSCH. International University Press, New York, 1959. Pp. 273. \$5.

The book consists of contributions by fifteen workers one of whom was Stanley Cobb. The title was taken from Freud's Introductory Lectures. Felix Deutsch, the leader of the team, was the first physician who studied psychosomatic illness by the psychoanalytic method. In his opinion, the mental mechanism of conversion can cause physical disease and, on the other hand, physical disease can serve as an outlet for conversion symptoms. He and his co-workers do not distinguish between conversion symptoms without tissue change and psychosomatic illness in the accepted sense, such as gastric ulcer, ulcerative colitis, etc. They regard psychosomatic symptoms as symbolic representations of psychological processes. Symbolization can, in their opinion, alter physiological processes from an early age. Each part of the body possesses the potentiality for the symbolic expression of loss and separation of objects and their restitution. The application of this theory is illustrated by several case records. It is not shared by all psychoanalysts who have concerned themselves with this problem. Flanders Dunbar and Franz Alexander did not interpret psychosomatic illness solely in terms of highly structured psychological processes. Nevertheless, this book presents a bold, though not wholly convincing attempt at breaking through the psycho-physical barrier.

E. STENGEL.

Differential Treatment and Prognosis in Schizophrenia. By ROBERT D. WIRT, Ph.D., and WERNER SIMON, M.D. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1959. Pp. 198.

This is a detailed report of a controlled therapeutic study of somewhat unusual design. An interim report was published in the *Amer. J. Psychiatry* (1958), 114, p. 1077.