

staff and patients. Further classes for the staff in finger spelling and sign language were held weekly, and some of the patients received oral instruction.

All forms of treatment are provided, including physical methods of treatment, psychotropic drugs, individual and group therapy, while great attention is paid to the patient's family background and rehabilitation. A halfway house is provided for cases in which there is difficulty in getting the patient back to his environment. The authors found that in 20 mental hospitals there were over 230 deaf patients and no special facilities were provided. Apart from the humane point of view, there were many potentially employable patients who were a financial liability to the state because of lack of treatment facilities. It was hoped that the 230 patients from the hospitals could be housed in a special building, but this was not possible and the 30-bed ward does provide for the chronic patients to rotate through the ward in the hope that some of them would benefit by the special services.

A number of interesting case histories are quoted in the text and some useful statistical tables are provided, while there is an excellent bibliography.

The book is most stimulating, and it is obvious that an important aspect of psychiatric treatment is lacking not only in this country but probably throughout the world. The book should be read not only by all psychiatrists but also by the Ministry of Health and Regional Boards in the hope that such a unit will be set up in this country.

LOUIS MINSKI.

### 3. SEX, MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

**Human Sexual Response.** By WILLIAM H. MASTERS and VIRGINIA E. JOHNSON. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1966. Pp. 366. Price 70s.

What physical reactions develop as the human male and female respond to effective sexual stimulation, and why do men and women behave as they do when responding? These were the questions posed by the authors of this much-discussed study. The present volume contains comprehensive answers to the first question, but not to the second.

Dr. Masters (an obstetrician) and Mrs. Johnson (who is not medically qualified) began their investigation in Washington in 1954. After pilot studies using prostitutes, they recruited patients and later normal volunteers who were paid for their help. The methods of study, carried out jointly by the two investigators, were history-taking, physical examination, and direct observation of sexual activity in the laboratory, supplemented by physiological measure-

ments and cine-photography. The book is based on interviews with 654 men and 619 women, and laboratory studies of 312 of the men and 382 of the women. Three-quarters of the 10,000 orgasms observed were female, and much more of the text is taken up in describing female responses than those of the male. Masturbation, manipulation by a partner, and coitus (nearly always between married people, referred to as "family units") were studied with equal care. Failure to reach orgasm in the laboratory was rare in either sex, but less so in the male. The intensity of female orgasm was greatest during masturbation and least during coitus. Five-yearly follow-up of the subjects showed no worsening of sexual performance after participation in the study. Special sections of the book are devoted to sexual responses in pregnancy and old age. A valuable bibliography is appended.

*Human Sexual Response* contains the best qualitative descriptions ever published of the anatomy and physiology of orgasm in both sexes. These are admirably summarized in tabular form on pages 286 to 293. Female orgasm is shown to be physically the same whether induced by clitoral or vaginal stimulation. Multiple female orgasms, and in a small proportion of cases a condition called "status orgasmus" are described. The authors attach importance to their discovery that during the second ("plateau") and third ("orgasmic") phases of orgasm, the clitoris retracts so far that stimulation of the sort advocated by marriage guidance manuals is futile. Masturbatory techniques in both sexes are minutely described. Only 5 per cent. of the male subjects possessed a foreskin: its presence made no difference to sexual performance. Physiological observations did not include EEGs.

The subjects of the study were mostly of superior educational and socio-economic status, many of the normal volunteers being from the academic community. The authors' impression is that they otherwise differed from the general population only in having "a basic interest in and desire for effectiveness in sexual performance". Apart from a few individual histories, we are told very little indeed about the personalities of the subjects. To psychiatrists, this must seem a pity. Many of us would be more interested in correlations between personality factors and sexual performance than, for example, in detailed observations of nipple length, or of colour changes in the corona of the glans penis during sexual arousal. The book has two more serious weaknesses as a scientific report. The first is that the experimental conditions are insufficiently defined. For example, no idea is given of the size or decor of the laboratory, or of the extent to which additional personnel were used. The design of the plastic penis-substitutes is not

revealed in any detail, nor is the formula for synthetic semen (used to investigate pooling) recorded. The information given on these and many other points is insufficient to enable other workers to reproduce these observations under conditions known to be comparable to those of the Masters-Johnson study. The second criticism lies in the poverty of the statistical treatment of the numerous observations recorded in the book. An opportunity of validating some of the Kinsey findings seems on this account to have been missed. There are, for example, no figures as to the speed of onset of male ejaculation to compare with those derived from Kinsey's histories. Again, age-trends in the post-ejaculatory refractory period are not quantified.

Some of these criticisms are likely to be met in the further volumes that the authors promise. Meanwhile, *Human Sexual Response* establishes a most important advance in the methodology of inquiry into sexual function and dysfunction, and an invaluable precedent for those investigators who need one.

DENIS PARR.

**An Analysis of Human Sexual Response.** Edited by RUTH and EDWARD BRECHER. London: Andre Deutsch. 1967. Pp. 318. Price 42s.

This is a book about a book. One-third consists in a "non-technical" summary of *Human Sexual Response*. Some interesting biographical notes on the original authors are interpolated. The summary of Masters and Johnson's findings is sound enough, but so much emphasis is placed upon defending and justifying the investigation that the style suffers a little in objectivity.

The rest of the book is an anthology of eleven essays (some reprinted in whole or part from elsewhere) on sexological topics having some bearing on *Human Sexual Response*. These include a short account by Masters and Johnson of the therapeutic counselling methods that they have developed in cases of sexual disharmony. A "therapeutic foursome" including male and female counsellors is advocated, along with simple remedial exercises of sexual functions. No indication is given of the efficacy of these methods, but publication of a five-year follow-up is promised. The other ten essays are not all well chosen, three being insubstantial in content and negligible in relevance to the original study. The best are by Wardell Pomeroy on the Kinsey Tradition, Daniel Brown on Female Orgasm and Sexual Inadequacy, and Leslie Fauber, who challenges the aims of modern sexology in a concluding chapter entitled "I'm sorry, dear".

*An Analysis of Human Sexual Response* is more in the nature of a popular commentary than its title suggests. It is well worth reading, but serious students will find it no substitute for Masters and Johnson's original publication.

DENIS PARR.

**The Transsexual Phenomenon.** By HARRY BENJAMIN. New York and London: The Julian Press Inc. 1966. Pp. 286. Price 63s.

**Transsexualism.** By JAN WALINDER (translated by HELEN FREY). Göteborg: Scandinavian University Books. 1967. Pp. 125. No price given.

Between them these volumes present a fair account of present knowledge of the phenomena of transsexuality. Dr. Benjamin writes in a journalistic style liberally interspersed with anecdotes and his views are based upon his own clinical experience gained in private practice as a gerontologist and sexologist in New York and San Francisco. His unusual diversity of practice and perhaps his association with such specialized periodicals as *Sexology Magazine* and *Transvestia* have enabled him to accumulate the largest personal series in existence of transsexualists. Unfortunately his presentation lacks scientific method, so that it is difficult to evaluate the significance of the material and the objectivity of the opinions expressed.

In contradistinction, Dr. Walinder approaches his subject with the clinical objectivity and thoroughness which characterize so many Scandinavian studies. Though his personal experience is founded upon a much smaller series (43 cases to Dr. Benjamin's 152), each case has been subjected to minute scrutiny and documented with scientific integrity.

Benjamin has constructed a useful "sex orientation scale" for describing "sex and gender role disorientation and indecision", and the six types of abnormality range from pseudo-transvestism in individuals who "get a kick out of dressing up" to high intensity transsexualists for whom nothing less than total sex transformation is acceptable. The latter goal is, of course, unattainable, and some male patients will continue to yearn for pregnancy or other manifestation of total femininity even after extensive surgery, while some female transsexualists will be satisfied with nothing less than a functional male organ.

Both authors emphasize the low sex drive in these patients, and Walinder states that "sex, in the usual sense of the term, does not play a prominent part in transsexualism". Many patients regard overt homosexual activity as repugnant, despite the fact that virtually all of them are sexually excited exclusively by members of their own anatomical sex, and Benjamin's case histories indicate that sexual drive