For these authors the medical model is good; all others have greater or lesser failings, none more heinous perhaps than those of anti-psychiatrists Laing and Szasz, whose writings they seem incapable of appreciating and of whose influence they seem resentful. The psychoanalytic, social and family-interaction models fare little better, but are dealt with in such a one-eyed manner that their criticisms seem devoid of impact. The technical reader's appreciation of the book is not assisted by a writing style which varies unpredictably and in short space from the scientific and critical to the popular and polemical.

The book's interest is related primarily to the authors' discussion of the medical model and its sub-models: the clinical, the organizational and the scientific. The two features of the clinical model, the doctor's 'authority' and, through this, his ability to confer upon patients the 'sick role' are interestingly developed, although this discussion might provide more fuel for the fire of those who, while agreeing their importance, are also concerned with the limitations of practice by ordinary mortals.

The construction and use of models and their implications for diagnosis management, and research are of fundamental importance to psychiatry. This book suffers because of its polemical and stylistic limitations and, at least on this side of the Atlantic, seems unlikely to be widely noted.

SIDNEY CROWN.

MEMORY

Attributes of Memory. By PETER HERRIOT. London: Methuen. 1974. Pp. x+205. Index 7 pp. Price £3.25 (£1.40 paperback).

This is a vigorous attempt to re-view the whole field of psychological work on memory and to re-evaluate theories and methods in the field. The author states his principal cavil with work to date simply and cogently. 'Experimental psychologists have asked why we forget more often than they have asked how we remember. They have made tasks difficult by presenting unrelated meaningless items at a fast rate, instead of giving the subject the opportunity to use the immense resources at his disposal in the leisured perusal of a meaningful whole. It is the main purpose of this book to redress the balance a little.' That 'a little' is Herriot being coy, since he obviously feels that the balance needs to be redressed a lot.

Memory is viewed in this book, not so much as a mechanism for storing but as a process of coding. While examining different forms of coding, the author lays stress on the fact that a person's linguistic system is his most useful coding device and that thereby a study of the underlying attributes and rules of language will cast light on the nature of memory.

The mammoth experimental literature on memory is well probed. Herriot avoids the barbarous practice of building up a vast un-analysed menu of references, and instead conducts an interesting argument illustrated by appropriate citation. Work on the way in which subjects organize the material they are trying to learn (particularly by researchers such as Postman and Tulving) is nicely considered.

The author concludes his book with a kind of gloomy optimism. He stresses that emphasis must change from structure to process, from limitation to capability and from separate areas of research to a common view of man as an active coder of his environment. He then says 'memory research is potentially the unifying force by which experimental psychology can be persuaded to adopt these changes in emphasis. We have only just begun'. Reading this, one is reminded that five years ago Deese pointed out that memory experiments have still not settled the question of whether there is some link between number of exposures of material and how well people learn, and that if the psychology of rote learning has been unable to solve so simple and elementary a problem this should lead us to question whether or not things are being gone about in the right way. He concluded 'certainly almost anyone but an experimental psychologist would long ago have begun to entertain doubts'. Herriot, like others, has now clearly begun to entertain doubts, but whether the changes in method and approach which he commends are radical enough remains to be seen.

D. BANNISTER.

Human Memory: Theory and Data. By BENNETT B. MURDOCK, JR. New York and London: John Wiley & Sons. 1974. Pp. x+312. References and indices 45 pp. Price £6.85.

Professor Murdock is an aristocrat among American psychologists, both in the quality of his extensive research output and in his highly individual approach. This volume summarizes his own work and that of many others in the experimental study of human memory over the past two decades, and does so in a style which is lucid, fluent—almost conversational—and free from the tortuous verbosity which mars so much current academic writing. It is regrettable, therefore, that the book cannot be recommended as providing an adequate account of human memory, even as an interim statement of recent developments.

The major faults, as I see them (and they arise from the biases which Professor Murdock states quite frankly in his introduction), can be regarded as two sides of the same coin: excessive concern with