

which served merely to contradict some specific theory or other'. Such individuals may suspect, or even brush aside, the reasons which Eysenck advances for adopting this policy. Certainly, if the reader were to remain unaware of the existence of contradictory evidence or alternative ideas to those put forward, then the critics might have an important point. As it is, with the main purpose of the Readings being that of providing a set of papers pertaining to a particular viewpoint, presented in a convenient and readable form, and for consumption by the intelligent and sophisticated reader, such objections will have little force.

H. R. BEECH.

**Perception, Motives and Personality.** By GEORGE S. KLEIN and ALFRED A. KNOPP. New York. 1970. Pp. 464. No price stated.

This book brings together a series of mostly reprinted essays which explore many of the problems surrounding the relationship between perception, motivation and individual personality. The author, an avowed antiseparatist in perception research, has some success in bringing together the diverging views that represent on the one hand the researches of academic laboratory psychologists, and on the other hand the many important observations that have been made on perception in a clinical setting.

Perceptual theories are seen as being broadly of two types; firstly those person-centred theories which emphasize motivation in perception which is regarded as reflecting intention and self-interest, and secondly, psychophysical theories which see perception in terms of information-processing models or self-contained mechanistic systems which reflect reality, much in the same way as a motion picture. The author is clearly most in sympathy with the idea of perception as a form of motivated cognition, and sees perception not as an end in itself but as something occurring in the context of some aim and action.

We must at least try to explain how different people differ in what they see. This is easy to demonstrate, but near to the heart of the matter is the psychiatric case conference. Different psychiatrists will tend to perceive the patient in different ways according to their personal orientation and experience, but each will tend to see each other's perception as having a distorting effect on reality. Much the same considerations will undoubtedly affect the reader of this text. Your reviewer was no exception and found that certain sections seemed boring, difficult to comprehend and irritatingly irrelevant, whereas other sections sprang to life and appeared full of meaning and significance.

The way in which perception and cognition are

simultaneously blended, and the conditions which either undermine or support reality orientated perception, are perhaps the most important perspectives for the clinician. The last chapter, entitled 'Credo for a "Clinical Psychologist"', is certainly of great interest in understanding the ambivalent status of that specialty in the United States. Had it been included as a preface rather than a postscript it might have helped the reader to orientate himself more readily for what is to come.

J. A. HARRINGTON.

**Image Formation and Cognition.** By MARDI J. HOROWITZ. Butterworths. 1970. Pp. 351. Price £5.80.

This is a monograph on visual images based on clinical and experimental studies carried out by the author at the Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute over a period of ten years. He is now teaching psychiatry at the University of California. The book is divided into four sections. Part I is a description of the range of image experiences and of the circumstances which evoke and modify them. Part II relates visual imagery to perception and thinking as well as to emotional processes. Part III deals with neurobiological influences on image formation including psychedelic drugs. Part IV reviews the therapeutic uses of image formation and its application in psychotherapy with special consideration of psychotic art and art therapy.

Images are classified according to vividness, context, interaction with perception and contents. The psychodynamics of image formation and the role of mental mechanisms is discussed. The psychopathology of image formation, with special consideration of 'unbidden visual images', was investigated in psychiatric patients who were encouraged to draw their visual experiences. The author arrives at the conclusion that unbidden images were due to a failure in repression. Two experiments using stressful and non-stressful films were designed to validate clinical observations about this type of image following psychic trauma. The effects of electrical stimulation of structures within the temporal lobes in patients with temporal lobe epilepsy were analysed. The images produced in this way were found to be related to current motivations as well as to physiological responses. The interaction between psychological and neurobiological influences received special attention.

Considering the magnitude of the subject, this is a remarkably informative and stimulating book. With its useful bibliography it should be of considerable value for teachers and research workers alike.

E. STENGL.