

Nicola Madge were commissioned to review the literature on deprivation, and this book presents their findings.

It opens with the exchange between Alice and Humpty Dumpty 'When I use a word . . . it means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less.' This helps to explain why cycle becomes plural and why deprivation, a word mistrusted by Rutter, becomes disadvantage. It is clear that there is no one form of disadvantage, and that the various types must be dealt with separately. The authors work their way through the literature on nine major areas: economic status, housing, intellectual and scholastic performance, occupational status, crime and delinquency, psychiatric disorder, parenting, multi-problem families, and ethnic minorities. In all they cover almost one thousand references, mostly recent and with particular reference to the presence or absence of intergenerational continuity of disadvantage.

This is a really major undertaking. The whole is a condensed and detailed volume, and one is overwhelmed by page after page of finely argued presentations. As a source book, however, it will prove invaluable. It provides a brief statement of the current state of knowledge and the key references in almost every topic of relevance to social psychiatry in its widest meaning. It is the ideal starting point for anyone wishing to initiate a research project or begin a reading programme. The book as a whole has a further educational function, albeit a rather depressing one. It reveals how little real evidence there is to support many strongly held views on social issues, and worse still how few research findings can be relied upon to guide social policy.

Sir Keith's cycle may not exist as such, but we can at least thank him for pedalling into motion the processes that generated this important book. With luck it may help break the cycle of transmitted misconception which occurs at present in many higher educational departments.

STEPHEN WOLKIND

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Schizophrenia Today. Edited by D. KEMALI, G. BARTHOLINI and D. RICHTER. Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1976. Pp xv+277. Index 4 pp. Price £9.00.

The holding of international conferences at places more notable for their scenic than their intellectual merits has been a growing tendency of late; among other things it encourages the attendance of Americans, who then write off the cost of a holiday abroad against the tax. There are even floating conferences,

and some which seem to be mostly airborne. But meeting on the Isle of Capri to discuss schizophrenia seems to me to be carrying the whole thing too far. This was done in 1975 by a group that was mainly Italian but with sprinklings from other countries, and the present book contains their proceedings. The one notable absentee was Gracie Fields—or at least, no contribution by her is recorded.

There are twenty chapters, varying from brief and platitudinous to full and highly informative. Two of the best are by our own Shields (on genetics) and Richter (on biochemistry); these can be strongly recommended as summaries of the present state of knowledge. Davison also contributes a very detailed account of drug-induced psychoses and their relationship to schizophrenia. Reactions to the chapters on psychotherapy by Arieti and Rosenfeld will no doubt depend on one's orientation; I personally found them unsatisfactory. The important subject of long-term drug treatment is really dealt with rather poorly by three Danish authors, and there is a long and curious chapter by Brody on 'Societal Determinants of Schizophrenic Behaviour'. This author has studied psycho-social stresses amongst under-privileged groups in Brazil; he is convincing about their ill-effects, but not about their connection with schizophrenia. Discussion of the relationship of this disease with socio-economic status is distinctly woolly, whilst epidemiology and theories of abnormal family mechanisms are scarcely mentioned.

For the selective reader, this volume constitutes a useful addition to the professional library, but it should be avoided by those who have not yet acquired a reasonable working knowledge of the subject.

HUGH FREEMAN

MOTIVATION

Intrinsic Motivation. By EDWARD L. DECI. New York: Plenum Press. 1975. Pp xi+293. Index 29 pp. Price £9.45.

Motivation is one of the many unresolved areas of psychology. Instinct, need, drive and emotion; primary and secondary drive; sentiment, attitude and 'functional autonomy'—these and many other concepts are represented in past and present motivational theories. Cognitive psychologists have outlined, refined and researched an area of significance to psychiatry: intrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation is motivation which represents our need to feel competent and self-determining in relation to our environment. Although related to other motivational concepts, intrinsic motivation cannot be reduced to, or accounted for, by them. At the level of common observation, it is seen in the young child's determined