

were nearly always classified in the same terms, schizoid, otherwise abnormal, or normal. It is a pity that in this instance the personalities of the DZ twins are not reported in the same way, but the marked degree of similarity between the MZ pairs certainly suggests that aspects of personality are under genetic influence. The third observation was that when the index twin's personality was abnormal his MZ co-twin was likely to be schizophrenic. In other words, co-twins who did not themselves suffer from schizophrenia tended to be paired with index cases whose personalities were normal. The explanation of these findings may be that schizophrenia is not genetically homogeneous. The authors themselves favour a diathesis-stress model in which the importance of either factor may vary from patient to patient: the majority of illnesses are mainly biologically determined, a few are mainly due to environmental stress, and there are others which are symptomatic of another disease altogether (e.g. alcoholism, epilepsy).

The precise relationship between premorbid personality and the actual psychosis is of course still unclear. The attempt to measure traits of personality by psychological tests ran into difficulties but was encouraging enough to stimulate further efforts. As regards the stress side of the model, the authors believe that this may be so difficult to pin down and define because the stresses involved are essentially idiosyncratic and personal. The genetic factor on the other hand is thought of as specific. This point is taken up by Meehl, who asks in what sense inheritance can at the same time be polygenic *and* specific. Meehl's lively 'afterword', in which he raises many awkward and fundamental questions, is well worth reading for its own sake.

As the authors are at pains to emphasize, the fact that heritability in schizophrenia is very high does not imply that curative or preventive measures will be ineffective, only that the environment (which includes the internal milieu) will need to be altered outside the range of naturally occurring environments. That there is a tremendous scope for influencing the course of schizophrenic illnesses is clear not only from the fact that concordance rates in MZ twins are well below 100 per cent, but also from the differences in length of hospital care between members of a pair, even when both are monozygotic and concordant for schizophrenia. This offers a challenge and a hope for the future.

This book shows what a wealth of information, ideas and illuminating sidelights can still be generated by twin studies, when they are imaginatively designed and carried through with rigour combined with

sensitivity. It will be read by everyone who is seriously interested in the aetiology of schizophrenia.

D. W. K. KAY.

#### BEREAVEMENT

**The Child in his Family, Vol. 2: The Impact of Disease and Death.** Edited by E. JAMES ANTHONY and CYRILLE KOUPERNIK. John Wiley and Sons. 1973. Pp. xxi+509. Index 3 pp. Price £8.00.

This second volume of *The Child in his Family* takes as its theme the variety of reactions that children and their parents show to the impact of disease, dying and death.

The contributions from a wide range of descriptions are grouped into seven sections, which include death and sickness in childhood, parricide, childhood suicide, the children of survivors of the holocaust, and the transcultural experience of disability, dying and death. I found this a difficult book to review dispassionately, as although a fair number of the individual chapters appear to be inadequate and poorly argued this seems far less important than the impression created by the book as a whole. By bringing together these painful topics in one volume it is as though the editors have broken the modern taboo about death (Gorer is amongst the contributors), and it is enriching and rewarding to see how different authors have been able to deal clinically with these extreme situations.

The most unsatisfying sections are those which purport to be reviews of the literature and accounts of research, almost all being inadequate. In contrast, however, are the more anecdotal sections, which are frequently poignant and stark. Outstanding is the one by Vernick in which he describes his work in a children's leukaemia unit; the agony and rewards of his work being seen through the quotations and comments of the children.

This book should be seen by all who work with children in hospital. Many of the chapters could be used as bases for staff discussions about subjects that too often we dare not face.

STEPHEN WOLKIND.

#### INTERACTION

**Social Interaction.** By MICHAEL ARGYLE. Tavistock Publications. 1973. Pp. 504. Price £1.70.

This is a paperback version of the book published first in 1969 and should bring the work before the wider audience it undoubtedly deserves. It is indeed a *tour de force*. In one respect, it is a textbook of social psychology and includes all the important subjects normally dealt with in such works—perception, small