

Insanity: A Study of Major Psychiatric Disorders. By R. G. PRIEST and J. STEINERT. Plymouth: Macdonald & Evans. 1977. Pp 397. £5.00.

This work belongs to a series on psychiatric topics for all those who will come into contact with the mentally ill in the community and deals with organic and functional psychoses. Although a long book, the style is chatty and colloquial and complicated issues are set out straight-forwardly with minimal use of jargon which, when it appears, is fully explained.

The approach is rational and humble. Few would quarrel with the clinical descriptions of the major psychoses and the discussions on causation and treatment are balanced and thorough. The most original parts of the book are those dealing with the psychological aspects of the day-to-day management of psychotic patients. By sticking close to the raw material of clinical practice and the issues and dilemmas which arise in patient management a great deal of practical advice and wisdom is conveyed. Both in these sections and throughout the book extensive use is made of brief, well chosen, illustrative case histories.

Short sections on the organization of the Health Service, the provision of facilities in the community, the working of the Mental Health Act and other legal aspects of psychiatry make this a very useful book.

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Encyclopedia of Metaphysical Medicine. By BENJAMIN WALKER. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1978. Pp 297. £6.75.

The title of this book is certainly intriguing. In my innocence I had assumed that 'metaphysical' meant 'occult' or 'supernatural'. I looked forward, therefore, to a compilation worthy of the endeavours of the Drs. Jekyll and Faustus. My disappointment, in the event, was bitter.

What the book is, in fact, is a hotch-potch of potted accounts of subjects some of whose connection with medicine, orthodox or unorthodox, is tenuous to say the least. They begin with 'abulia' and then range through, for example, 'borboric therapy', 'chromotherapy', 'eccentricity', 'magnetotherapy', 'pneumopathy', 'sociopsychosis', and bringing up the rear, 'zone therapy'.

In order to sample the quality of individual items I felt it best to concentrate on what I think I know. I turned, not unnaturally, to 'Asylums' and immediately felt my hackles rising out of control. Why? Let

me offer in explanation this particular extract selected because it refers indubitably to English mental hospitals about which I know that I know:

"A very high proportion of mental patients are females: there are over thirty women to every male in English mental asylums. Complaints about persecution, physical ill-treatment, sexual assault, are often ignored by doctors and staff, or 'interpreted' to the patient's detriment".

Need I go on?

HENRY R. ROLLIN, *Consultant Psychiatrist, Epsom, Surrey*

New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis. Volume 2. By SIGMUND FREUD. General Editor ANGELA RICHARDS. London: Pelican Freud Library. 1976. Pp 247. 90p.

This volume contains the slightly amorphous material of the New Introductory Lectures which forms part of Volume 22 of the *Standard Edition*. There is no recasting by themes.

It is evident however that to recast the *Standard Edition* into the Pelican Freud Library entailed a great deal of fiddling work, such as changing all the page references. The fact that there are only minor changes to the text means that such criticisms as are to be made are likely to be rather carping.

It seemed to me confusing to describe the system of references to the Pelican Freud Library at the end of the section on Freud's Life and Ideas instead of in the Introduction to the P.F.L. itself, along with the rest of the explanations of the Editorial Comment.

To redress the balance in favour of the P.F.L., however, I was surprised to note references at the end of the Bibliography which have been omitted at least from my copy of the *Standard Edition*.

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The World of Emotions: Clinical Studies of Affects and their Expression. Edited with commentaries by CHARLES W. SOCARIDES. New York: International Universities Press. 1978. Pp 593. \$24.95.

At first sight this kind of book seems to be unnecessary since it is a collection of papers in the area of emotion all of which are fairly readily available. Indeed all but seven of the 31 papers are reprinted from the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association* and *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. The quality of the papers

varies greatly as does the editorial comment which sometimes seems to add significantly to the understanding of a paper while with others it is largely redundant. The papers are printed in chronological order and range in time from the first in 1927 to the last in 1972. There is therefore no ordering of subject matter and the editor has not really attempted to make any coherent statement about emotion, but simply to make the papers readily available.

Having said this I have to admit that this is a book that gave me considerable pleasure and one from which I learnt a lot. Of course I could have read the original papers but the truth is that I probably would never have done so. Some of the papers are descriptions of clinical states rather than studies of emotion. For example, Rado on Melancholia (1927), Helene Deutsch on the 'As-If Personality' (1942), Enid Balint 'On Being Empty of Oneself' (1963), Ping-nie Pao on 'Pathological Jealousy' (1969). Most however deal with specific emotions or the behaviour associated with them. Thus we have papers on the psychology of screaming, on anxiety, pathos, the absence of grief, on laughter, on ingratitude, querulence, generosity, boredom, crying at the happy ending, pouting, smugness, arrogance, bitterness, enthusiasm, faith, trust and gullability, sarcasm, vengeance, gloating, nostalgia, love, shame, disillusionment and horror. Some of the papers are rather thin but others such as that of Nina Searl on 'Screaming' (1933) and James Alexander on 'Bitterness' (1960) studied the subject in depth, gave vivid clinical material, and in my view extended the understanding of these states. W. R. Bion's paper on 'Arrogance' although difficult to follow is one of his most brilliant and repays close study.

This then is a book for people who are too busy or too lazy to hunt out the original papers, and one could argue that the time would be better spent in studying them and that we owe Dr. Socarides thanks for bringing them to our attention.

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Personality and Adjustment in the Aged. By R. D. SAVAGE, L. B. GABER, P. G. BRITTON, N. BOLTON and A. COOPER. London: Academic Press. 1977. Pp 186. £8.20.

This work on personality forms a disappointing addition to the impressive body of knowledge assembled in the course of the ten year Newcastle-upon-Tyne project. On the credit side the book contains a couple of reasonable sections in which the

literature on adjustment in ageing, and the relationship between psychological and social factors and mental illness in the elderly, is usefully summarized. In addition some of the data described in the book may be of interest to those wishing to apply personality tests in elderly populations. However, given that this book has been written at a time when the usefulness of personality testing is being increasingly questioned by psychologists, it is perhaps surprising that the authors seem to assume that the clinical and social relevance of their research is self-evident.

This is by no means the only fault in the book. It is generally badly constructed and suffers, one suspects, from its multi-authorship. The introductory chapter is patchy in quality and is rendered confusing by the inconsistencies in the system of section and sub-section headings. The second chapter on research methodology is equally confusing. The sub-sample labels do not always seem congruent with the descriptions of the subjects within the sub-sample, and several instances of gratuitous repetition and appalling grammar occurring later in the chapter create further difficulties for the reader. The presentation of the results in chapters three and four is marred by a tendency to describe cross-sectional differences between age groups as though they were longitudinal changes, and by verbatim repetition of chunks of a preceding chapter. The conclusions drawn in the final chapter may be instructive to those who were not already aware that the needs and requirements of aged people may be subject to large individual differences. I am not entirely happy though about the way in which the authors go about substantiating their claim to have found exactly four distinctive types of personality in the elderly.

Although I have some sympathy for the difficulties that must face authors presenting the results of a research project fourteen or so years after it was begun, I feel that they were unwise to release the book in its present form.

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Web of Violence: A Study of Family Violence.

By JEAN RENVOIZE. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1978. Pp 240. £4.95.

Jean Renvoize's title is well-chosen; here is a thoroughly convincing portrayal of family violence as a gigantic web that spans generations, one in which the child victim of today almost inevitably becomes the adult offender of ten or twenty years hence. Violence is addictive; caught in childhood it will probably become the problem-solving behaviour of