

sion, and the acceptability of others. A delightful example is his work on the relation between schizophrenia and epilepsy, but there are many more. It is difficult to know why psychiatrists are so lacking in numeracy; that they are is hardly disputable. When at Sir Aubrey Lewis's bidding I gave primary mental ability tests to all the incoming psychiatric registrars at the Maudsley, I found them very high on verbal ability, abysmally low on numerical ability, to a degree I have never before or since seen in any adult sample; the difference was so significant that even samples of five or six sufficed to establish the oddity of this group. Clearly heredity placed numeracy among the birth-presents of the Slater children; Patrick Slater as well as Eliot has shown marked talent in this field. Whatever the reason for this gift, let us treasure it and hope that other psychiatrists in the future will take up the torch where Slater may be dropping it!

This book, then, will please many readers with broad interests in psychiatry, psychology, or just the human condition; the writing is so clear that many of the pieces do not require specialized knowledge. Experts in the genetic and general psychiatric fields will be glad to have so easily accessible some of the most important and fertile contributions made to these two fields in the past thirty years. Altogether, our sorrow at the retirement of the author is somewhat lessened by having this lasting contribution to console us.

H. J. EYSENCK.

THOMAS SZASZ

The Manufacture of Madness. By THOMAS S. SZASZ. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1971. Pp. xxvii + 383. Price £3.50.

Professor Szasz, a follower of the French philosopher Michel Foucault, R. D. Laing and others, makes a vigorous attack on so-called 'Institutional Psychiatry' defined as psychiatric intervention imposed on persons against their will. The argument follows the lines familiarized by other writers of this school, if such it may be called. The author sees in the current American attitudes to the social deviant, in particular the homosexual as the 'model' exemplar, but also drug addicts and others, a modern expression of the primitive belief in the scapegoat cast out to ensure the continued well-being of society. He draws a parallel between the mediaeval European witch and the victim of mental illness, and between the priest inquisitor and the psychiatrist of today.

The author evades discussion of the meaning of 'illness', ignores what evidence there is of the likelihood of a somatic basis in the psychoses and claims that the 'patient' (an unacceptable term to those of his way of thinking), is a mere label affixed to the

deviant individual to strengthen public belief in the supposed scientific expertise and authority of the psychiatric fraternity. In his vigorous and sometimes vitriolic attack on American legal and administrative procedures he doubtless presents a good case, but overlooks that these procedures were established initially less to safeguard society than to ensure the liberty of the individual, however much of this aim may have miscarried later in practice. Professor Szasz's criticisms of the British N.H.S. betray his ignorance of its nature, notably by his belief that the consultant is a state official primarily responsible to the state. He also ignores the more liberal attitude to homosexuality in this country now embodied in statute. If, however, anything positive does emerge from this essay, it is that 'the price of freedom is eternal vigilance', of which reminders cannot be too frequent. Nobody could deny that Professor Szasz is a doughty champion of this principle.

E. W. ANDERSON.

The Myth of Mental Illness. By THOMAS S. SZASZ. (Revised Edition). Paladin. 1972. Pp. 296. Price 75p.

It is just ten years since the first publication of this celebrated and provoking book and the new paperback edition is welcome. It will be re-read by some, but many more who have heard of Dr. Szasz's reputation and the striking title of his best known book will now be able to examine his arguments. In the new preface the author stands by his opinions but he has eliminated what he regards as over-documentation of the original version. The book is all the better for this new conciseness, which preserves the argument and polemic, the good sense and the outrageousness. In a popular paperback edition it is more than ever a work to be read both for its own sake and to know what others are talking about. RICHARD MAYOU.

DIAGNOSIS

Psychiatric Diagnosis in New York and London.

By J. E. COOPER, R. E. KENDELL, B. J. GURLAND, L. SHARPE, J. R. M. COPELAND and R. SIMON. Maudsley Monograph No. 20. London: Oxford University Press. 1972. Pp. 152. Price £3.00.

The investigation described in this book has needed doing for a decade or more; now it has been done, and done well. Most readers of this *Journal* will already have some acquaintance with the work, though their immediate association is likely to be that it is chiefly concerned with the issue of the reliability of psychiatric diagnosis. This is only partly true, for the main object was to investigate the marked differ-