

helpful account of behaviour modification techniques used in classroom work, but the principles would be equally applicable in a ward situation. It gives excellent descriptions of individual problems and how these can be tackled; it could certainly be recommended as an introductory explanation to nurses and occupational therapists before participating in a programme of ward activities based on these principles.

C. P. SEAGER.

Psycho-Imagination Therapy. By JOSEPH E. SHORR. Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation. 1972. Pp. 245. Price \$18.75.

Every good therapist depends upon improvisations which are created at the moment of encounter with his patients. Some of these are so valuable (and pleasurable), that they call for recording and for communication to colleagues.

Dr. Shorr presents his ideas with enthusiasm, even though they can hardly be said to make a contribution to the basic theories of psychotherapy. The name Psycho-Imagination Therapy is derived from his instruction to a patient to picture himself in imaginary situations which he provides. In order to elicit the conflict area he makes demands such as 'imagine the most private moment you can think of', 'what does your head say to your heart?', 'what do your guts say to your penis or vagina'. His repertoires include the 'finish the sentence technique'.

Notwithstanding its over-ambitious title, the book has a good deal to offer the reader who dips into its pages. He will find many valuable additions to his techniques.

J. H. KAHN.

Transactions: the Interplay Between Individual, Family, and Society. By JOHN SPIEGEL. New York: Science House, Inc. 1972. Pp. 455. Price \$16.50.

This is a volume of collected papers, some previously published but others hitherto unpublished. The book lacks the overall coherence of a volume that has been specially written for a particular purpose, but this does not detract from the value of much of the contents. The author makes a courageous attempt to bridge the complex transactions that occur between the family and society, using the background disciplines that embrace sociology and psychoanalysis. His concern with ideas more than practice will have less appeal to British psychiatrists whose pre-occupation in the National Health Services is more with the delivery of mental health care than the theory on which such care is based. The first part, on transactional theory, is heavy going for anybody who is unfamiliar with the jargon and background philo-

sophy of transactional analysis, but later chapters are more easily digested and John Spiegel puts forward some fascinating concepts about transactions within the family and during psychotherapy. University teachers will find that the last two chapters, which concern themselves with the group psychology of campus disorders and value conflicts in university, gives them a wider perspective on the problems of our student population.

JOHN HARRINGTON.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Psychosomatic Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Edited by NORMAN MORRIS. S. Karger. 1972. Pp. 638. Price £16.50.

The editor and the publishers are to be congratulated on the technical achievement of issuing this beautifully produced but very, very expensive book so quickly. It contains the proceedings of the Third International Congress on Psychosomatic Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, held in the spring of 1971. Unfortunately all of the 180 papers delivered at the Congress are included, most of them in an abbreviated form. If publication was considered necessary at all, would it not have been better to publish the important contributions in extenso, and to omit the trivial?

The range of topics is very wide, from sex education to puerperal depression in obstetrics, from puberty to the menopause in gynaecology. But I fear the editor is guilty of hyperbole when he claims, 'we trace the psychological needs and difficulties for children and adults from birth through puberty and adolescence into marriage and parenthood and finally to the menopause'.

As always, the quality of the papers is very variable. There are papers from experts in the field, some of them thrice-told tales from old friends. They are interesting investigations, most of them reported too briefly. And there are 'tickets of admission', papers that enabled their deliverers to claim their travelling expenses.

The editor hopes that the proceedings will provoke widespread interest. Let us hope so too, for this is the one justification for the book.

J. L. GIBBONS.

DRUG ABUSE

Drug Abuse. Proceedings of the International Conference. Edited by CHRIS J. D. ZARAFONETIS. London: Henry Kimpton. 1972. Pp. 616. Price £9.00.

This book puts together the proceedings of a conference held at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in Novem-