

*something.*" It may be that American students have ample time and will prefer this style to a more pithy exposition. Other students, however, are likely to find the book disappointing, particularly as the references and reports are almost all concerned with work in America.

The judgments expressed are sometimes quite faulty and naive. For example, it is suggested that Maxwell Jones believed that the unit at Belmont provided a normal, healthy community which influenced the patients there. They frequently quote the comments of other writers on other books and this leads to a third-hand impression, the value of which is difficult to assess and at times quite confusing. For example: "Whatever plausibility the resulting conceptualization has is achieved by ignoring the really interesting cases of personological inference."

The chief interest for English readers would lie in the description given of the developing profession of clinical psychology in America. The book shows that there is still considerable uncertainty in the relationship to psychiatry and treatment. At times, they seem to deny any desire to take over a treatment role from medicine, but on other occasions they seem to suggest that this is indeed their intention. Even when describing the therapeutic role, however, they are usually hesitant and at times suggest that this is only necessary because of the shortage of workers in the medical field. There is probably a lesson here for our own Health Service which is seriously short of psychiatrists.

A. A. BAKER.

**La Conscience (Consciousness).** By HENRI EY. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1963. Pp. 439. Price Fr. 20.

This book contains a great deal of interesting and valuable material. At the outset there is a lucid survey of existentialist philosophy bearing upon the topic of consciousness. This is followed by a masterly clinical analysis of the phenomenology of disturbances of consciousness. There is next a good account of the neurophysiology of arousal, awareness and sleep and also a very competent survey of all the important theories of personality.

Out of the above material Professor Ey develops his arguments. He contends that the field of consciousness can be defined and shown to have a structure in time and space and to obey laws. It further includes or "contains" the unconscious with which it is in a dynamic relationship. Both consciousness and the unconscious are in further relationship with the *Moi* (Ego or self). The *Moi* is held to develop from the history and sequence of experiences of the individual

and to have a special power of "autoconstruction" which is manifest firstly in its independent emergence from the field of consciousness and from the unconscious, and secondly in its ultimate power of determining the direction of its own effects; it is thus claimed to have "transcendent" qualities.

The author shows he is aware that others might criticize arguments of this type about the *Moi* on the grounds of reification. Inevitably too they cannot be accepted by those who, like the reviewer, find the concept of transcendence to be unhelpful. Nevertheless the author commands respect for his objective approach, great learning and excellent analysis of the phenomena of conscious states.

H. MERSKEY.

**Pickford Projective Pictures.** By R. W. PICKFORD. London: Tavistock Publications. 1963. Pp. 122. Price: Text 30s.; Picture Material 25s.; Set 50s.

The pictures consist of 120 cards 5 inches  $\times$  3½ inches. On each there is a simple line drawing depicting a fairly easily identifiable situation, a railway station, two people in a bath, a schoolmaster (mortar-board) playing with a kite. As well as the background situation there are one or two more people of varying age, the sex and age of the people is usually indicated by their clothes; details of the faces, eyes, mouth, are seldom filled in, and on many of the cards it is a blank profile or full face, though a jutting chin or the angle of the limbs may be suggestive. None of the figures are stippled or closely shaded and colour is not used. As pictures, they are closer to the Phillipson Object Relations test than to the Thematic Apperception tests.

The technique is to show a card to the child and ask him to make up a story about it. Occasionally several cards may be presented at one time and the child is asked to integrate the scenes. The author in the accompanying book has classified the 120 cards into sets of 6, each set dealing with a special topic, for instance, relationships with father figures, aggression against parents, rivalry with siblings. What is new in these pictures and technique is that Pickford is trying to provide psychologist, psychotherapist and school teacher with a therapeutic technique as well as a diagnostic tool. Many therapists are accustomed to providing play material or enquiring about dreams. This series will allow a new series of 6 pictures to be shown to a child each week for 20 weeks. If these are selected from the sets of cards indicating a special topic, for instance, "child alone or rejected", the child's stories may be expected to show changes as therapy proceeds.