for the evaluation of the psycho-social functioning of family groups. Second, I hope to find means for the systematic correlation of the emotional functioning and mental health of the individual with the emotional functioning and mental health of the family group. Third, I hope to develop a method for the observation and differential description of families according to their mental health and, correspondingly, a method for systematic comparison of contrasting types of families". Unfortunately, not very much progress towards these goals is achieved in the pages that follow. A "detailed exploration of 50 families, each one of which had two or more members in psychotherapy" is said to have been used to "develop and clarify many of the concepts outlined in this book" (p. 329); but no systematic account of these families is offered. The basic method of presentation is assertive and tends to be circular: a construct or generalization is presented, a case history illustrating the construct is provided, and the value of the construct is then taken as demonstrated.

The first section, on theoretical aspects, is largely devoted to demonstrating the author's roots in, and departures from, psychoanalytical theory; the chapter on social role cannot be said to give serious consideration to sociological and anthropological work. The second section, on "clinical aspects", and the third, on "therapeutic aspects", present a fair amount of case material, much of it of considerable interest. This is interspersed with more general statements, many of which seemed to this reviewer at any rate to be a compound of the obvious and the dubious. As a sample, one may quote from the chapter on disturbances of parental pairs (p. 182): "In our times we encounter many men who make a grand pretence of fulfilling the ideal of fatherhood. They put on a large show of fatherly concern because of their intense need to exhibit themselves favourably, to win approval in other people's eyes . . . They are motivated less by the positive pleasure of being a father and more by the ulterior motive of winning family prestige in the eyes of the community. They are not primarily interested in the paternal relation with the child, but seek rather to bolster themselves through an aggrandized social position. In so doing they are climbing on their children's backs; they exploit their children for their own vicarious gains. It is therefore important to distinguish between pseudo or noisy fathering and genuine fathering."

The final classification of family types into seven categories is stated to represent "theoretically pure types, although in actuality there is considerable overlapping". Each category is described in general terms referring variously to behaviour of the individual, to the internal structure of the family, and to the family's relationship with the outside world; like family type 7, this classification seems to suffer "from inappropriate and unclear goals".

The value of this book lies in the descriptions provided of psychiatric disturbance in the family setting, and in the accounts given of therapy involving intervention into the total family situation. In these descriptions Professor Ackerman writes from considerable experience and in terms which will be familiar to the psychodynamically-inclined psychiatrist. These terms, however, do not provide an adequate conceptual framework for the analysis of family functioning which is attempted in the book. In his endeavour to provide such an analysis the author has buried his clinical contribution in a frustrating and opaque mass of generalizations and repetitions.

ANTHONY RYLE.

The Family and Human Adaptation. By THEODORE LIDZ. New York: International Universities Press, London: The Hogarth Press. 1963. Pp. 120. Price 25s.

After a short introduction, three lectures delivered by the author in 1961 at Tulane University, New Orleans, are here presented. They were originally given to an audience of psychiatrists, anthropologists, psychologists, and sociologists, who were reminded of recent marked changes in family structure in the train of urbanization and industrialization. In many areas of the Western World the extended kinship family group is gradually replaced by isolated nuclear family structures. These depend primarily on the personalities of the two spouses, and tend to be more unstable units than the extended family. However, in a rapidly changing world the nuclear family is thought to provide better training in adaptability than the more rigid and tradition-ridden extended family group. In the relatively isolated nuclear families, mental interactions of the parents tend to influence powerfully the personality development of their children.

Failure of adequate ego integration in a group of young schizophrenics has been related by Professor Lidz and his collaborators (in numerous previous publications) to faulty family environments. Parents failed to form a coalition as members of the older generation, and to maintain their masculine or feminine roles. These failures were important factors in promoting schizophrenic psychopathology, especially chaotic sexuality. Failure of families to pass on instrumentally useful ways of adaptation to the society in which the family exists is particularly evident in faulty transmission of language and

meaning to children, who later become thought-disordered schizophrenics. In the last lecture, the way in which language is related to thinking and experience in different cultures is lucidly presented with reference to the studies of Sapir, Whorf, and others. The various ways in which parents of schizophrenics belonging to the families studied by the author impeded language development, fostered distrust of the ability of verbal communication, and inculcated confused or distorted meanings, are discussed.

This very readable small book can only be evaluated in conjunction with the scattered earlier publications of Theodore Lidz and his fellow-workers at the Yale Psychiatric Institute. In these they reported work with the families of 17 young schizophrenics, both whose parents were available for intensive study, including personality testing; many other persons who had been in contact with the families were interviewed as well. An attempt was made to reconstruct the lives of the families in which these schizophrenics were raised. The work is, therefore, essentially retrospective, but the contention that at least one, and often both parents were mentally abnormal (several of them ambulant schizophrenics) appears to be supported by some of the published case reports, A concentrated account of methodology, findings, and interpretations synthesizing these important studies in schizophrenia appears to be overdue.

FELIX POST.

Life in the Ward. By ROSE L. COSER. Michigan: Michigan State University Press. 1962. Pp. 182. Price $7.50.

This study by an American sociologist describes and analyses the relationships that develop among the patients and hospital staff in a general hospital ward. During the first three months of the study the investigator was present on the ward for a total of eight hours a day, and periodic visits were paid during the following three months. Extensive material was collected concerning the attitudes of patients, nurses and junior medical staff, and fifty-three intensive interviews were conducted with patients from the female and male medical and surgical wards.

Detailed descriptions are given of the way in which the images which doctors and nurses have of their own role influence their demands on each other. The vocational interests of the junior doctor are contrasted with the professional role of the nurses and many conflicts of attitude emerge. The hierarchical structure of the doctors on the medical and surgical wards are found to be quite different and this has consequences for the nursing staff. The needs of the patients, their expectations of the hospital and its staff, and their defences against threats to their security are discussed in detail.

An analysis of the inter-correlation of patient attitudes leads to the conclusion that there are two types of adaptation to hospital. Patients looking for gratification of primary needs usually felt that the hospital provided them with a "home", and expected emotional support from the doctor. Other patients with an instrumental view of hospital and doctor more often felt that the hospital offered technical, medical and nursing facilities and expected a doctor to demonstrate his professional competence. Of these two types of patients, those with a primary orientation appeared more ready to accept the conditions of hospital life and they felt less deprived of relatives, friends and normal activities. They could (or would) make no suggestions for the possible improvement of the comfort of patients. They tended to define a "good patient" as one who is completely submissive to the hospital authorities. In contrast, the instrumentally orientated patients more often felt that being a "good patient" was compatible with some degree of personal autonomy. The instrumentally orientated patients more frequently anticipated resuming social relationships and active pursuits on returning home, while the primary orientated patients more often looked forward to passive satisfactions. The more ready acceptance of the hospital structure by primary orientated patients was accompanied by a greater reluctance on their part to give up their invalid role.

The following factors were considered to have a bearing on these two types of adaptation to hospital life: age, the number of admissions to hospitals, the medical or surgical treatment, and differences in the organization and authority structure of the wards, with attendant differences in the role of nurses.

This study was conducted at Mount Hermon Hospital, situated in a large metropolis on the Atlantic seaboard. Although a community hospital, it is strongly orientated towards teaching and research and this aspect has clearly contributed to some of the author's findings. Mount Hermon Hospital is supported by the Jewish population of the city, most of the patients and physicians are Jewish, and it still draws a large part of its ward population from the generations of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. These atypical features must impose caution in any attempt to generalize from the findings of this investigation. Despite this limitation, and despite also a tendency to be rather too anecdotal and repetitive at times, the book can