

Professor Halmos spares us nothing: 'it is not my wish to emulate those for whom the most important causal process in the poultry yard is the one in which eggs cause hens to be made whilst thoroughly neglecting that other causal process in which hens cause eggs to be made.' And yet he constantly provokes one to think afresh about things which are at the very centre of the professional concerns of psychiatrists. Each reader will decide for himself how far he is persuaded by Professor Halmos's thesis. This is a book that could generate some lively seminars.

TOM ARIE.

NEW JOURNALS

Psychological Medicine: Vol. 1, No. 1. November 1971. Vol. 2, February 1971. Edited by MICHAEL SHEPHERD. British Medical Association. Quarterly. Annual subscription £3.75 in U.K. and Eire, £4.20 overseas.

The objective of this new quarterly 'devoted primarily to research in clinical psychiatry and its allied sciences,' is, as Professor Shepherd the Editor tells us, the speedy publication of relevant, inevitably variegated papers of high scientific standard from the United Kingdom and other countries. We can happily record that this journal achieves its aim. Waiting time for publication of articles has been growing and a new outlet has been needed. Here we have it. Extolling individual authors would be like carrying Chairs to Camberwell, and though the first number, perhaps understandably, has a high Maudsley component, the second issue shows that we need not fear a parochial production.

The journal is conventional but attractive in appearance. There are approximately 90 pages of text in each issue, with advertisements confined to the end pages. Articles are printed in pleasing type face in double columns on good quality paper. Each begins with a very brief summary. Tables are well laid out, diagrams are clear, photographs are not quite so well reproduced.

The book reviews, except for the first, are unattributed. In the *British Journal of Psychiatry* even the Editor signs his own, and other reviewers have provided quite strong meat, sometimes even 'a bit off'. Readers have been able to assimilate them and treat them appropriately because they have known who wrote them. Anonymity is a two-edged weapon, and your reviewer thinks the disadvantages considerably outweigh the advantages. On the other hand the editorial in the second issue is signed, a curious practice, especially as the author is not a member of the Editorial Committee, Does it or doesn't it, then, represent the Editor's own views?

These are, however, minor points. *Psychological Medicine* is, on the evidence of the first two issues, going to be an important psychiatric journal that everyone will need to read and want to read.

NEIL KESSEL.

Tropical Doctor: Vol. 1, No. 1. January 1971.

Published by Royal Society of Medicine.

Edited by H. A. Clegg. Subscription £3 p.a. post free.

This new quarterly aims to publish invited contributions on the prevention, management and treatment of prevalent diseases in developing countries and to present a picture of the problems of health and disease in these countries; it will not confine itself to tropical medicine. It is particularly aimed at the isolated worker in the tropics. The first edition contains articles on the treatment of cholera, the treatment of lobar pneumonia, the recognition and treatment of Burkitt's lymphoma, the treatment of hookworm, the management of burns, the management of head injuries, tropical ulcer, general anaesthesia, maternity care in the tropics, eradication of smallpox, and clinics for the under-fives.

None of the articles is a research communication, and the prime purpose of the journal seems to be educational. Psychiatry doesn't get a mention at this stage, presumably because it is low on the list of priorities of the 'tropical doctor'. However, there are some terrible deficiencies in the care of the insane in some parts of the world. In view of the journal's stated aims perhaps they will get attention in later issues.

JOHN GUNN.

REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Assessment in Cerebrovascular Insufficiency.

Edited by G. STÖCKER, R. A. KUHN, P. HALL, G. BECKER and E. VAN DER VEEN. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1971. Pp. 152, 72 illustrations, 39 Tables. Price DM 20.

This is the report of an international symposium on the assessment of the effects of cyclandelate (cyclospasmol) on cerebral blood flow and mental function in patients with cerebrovascular insufficiency, held in Würzburg in 1970. It contains 22 papers, 11 from the United Kingdom, which together provide a concise and up-to-date account of a variety of psychological and physiological research techniques in geriatric psychiatry. There was general agreement that treatment with cyclandelate benefits the elderly patient with mental impairment due to cerebrovascular disease. The drug may act not just by increasing cerebral blood flow but also directly on brain metabolism.

The book has been well produced with a minimum of delay. It is a pity, however, that the editors have left out the discussion, as this is often the most valuable part of symposia of this type. Workers in geriatric psychiatry will find this book well worth reading.

J. STERN.

Research and Report Writing in the Behavioural Sciences. By ROBERT L. NOLAND. Charles C. Thomas. Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A. Pp. 98. Price \$6.50.

The advice given in this book is intended for an American student who has been given an assignment as part of his university course to choose some subject within the range of the behavioural sciences, review the literature on it, and present his findings in a paper. Experimental research is excluded from consideration. The advice is of a very simple kind: in selecting a suitable topic it warns him against choosing one which is too large and ill-defined; in consulting the literature, to avoid being diverted from his subject and only to skim through publications if he finds their interest is meagre or tangential; in drafting the paper, to adopt a truly professional layout—title, list of contents, chapter headings, footnotes and all. Nearly a third of the book is occupied by lists of references where the readers can find further guidance through all three stages. Postgraduate students preparing dissertations or theses for higher degrees in Britain may find it will help them too, in getting through the tedious, disappointing task of reviewing the literature.

What a pity that the book is written in such atrocious gobbledegook: 'If the submission of a paper is an absolute requirement for the passage of the course', for example. It cannot be read, like Gibbon, for the sheer enjoyment of the literary style. Anyone who thinks he may need to consult it should apply the author's appropriate advice: turn it up in the library, skim through it (10 minutes maximum) and then make a snap decision whether he will ever want to refer to it again.

P. SLATER.

Freedom in a Rocking Boat. Changing Values in an Unstable Society. By GEOFFREY VICKERS. London: Allen Lane The Penguin Press. Pp. 215. 1970. Price £2.50.

The author who was for many years a member both of the Medical Research Council and of the Mental Health Research Fund, here continues his analysis of human social systems. He begins by recalling that in his youth he travelled across European frontiers which asked no passport. The hope was the imminence of the unity of mankind. Today the world is full of people dedicated to revolutionary conflict and the overthrow of authority. The causes of the failure of the liberal hope are examined in terms of the regulators which political systems need to encompass change without disintegrating. The 'scientific distortion' is not to realize that human life consists in experiencing relations, an aesthetic rather than a goal-seeking activity. Freedom in the post-liberal era may rest on the hope that increasingly alarming experiences of man-made disasters will (if not irremediable) eventually convince ordinary people of the need to accept restraints which would have seemed outrageous before—a partnership of the governors and the governed.

D. W. K. KAY.

Volunteers in Prison After-Care. By HUGH BARR. George Allen and Unwin. 1971. Pp. 167. Price £2.75.

This report describes a pilot scheme for enlisting voluntary workers to collaborate with probation officers in helping ex-prisoners. Recruitment was not difficult, but judicious selection of candidates, and a preparatory training course, were found to be essential. Initial doubts by the professionals about entrusting their clients to lay workers had to be overcome. Most of the volunteers were much more middle class in origin and outlook than the clients, but this did not seem as great a hindrance as might have been expected. Not being burdened with large case-loads, or committed to an official approach, the volunteers could introduce prisoners to their homes and friends and invite them to join in leisure pursuits, and be at hand in moments of need. That some lonely and socially rejected clients derived comfort there can be no doubt, but it is neither claimed nor is it known whether this decreased their chances of reconviction.

D. J. WEST.