

## Book Reviews

### PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

**Psychopathology—The Science of Understanding Deviance.** By JAMES D. PAGE. Chicago: Aldine Publishing Company. 2nd Edition. 1975. Pp vii+495. Index 12 pp. Illustrated. Price \$14.95.

This book is remarkable for the excellence of its printing, binding and design no less than for the high standard of its contents. Professor Page, a psychologist at Temple University, has produced a scholarly, eminently readable introductory text. Not everyone will agree with his standpoint on psychopathology, but at least he makes his particular bias explicit. The author rejects the medical model. In practice he accepts, and bases his discussion on, the standard A.P.A. classification of mental disorders but he regards these as merely 'defects in psychosocial functioning that differ mainly in degree and duration from similar disturbances in functioning that are commonly noted in normal individuals'.

In refreshing contrast to the works of certain other well known professors of psychology, the present book is illuminated by the author's extensive clinical experience. Careful, balanced consideration is given to the relative contributions of biological, psychological and socio-cultural variables to psychopathology. In addition to clear descriptions of the classical psychiatric disorders, there are closely reasoned, stimulating chapters on criteria of psychopathology, abnormal behaviour in historical perspective, social deviance and (so-called) community mental health, and the psychopathology of sex. Among various gems in the text are Kraepelin's 'A Case of Dementia Praecox', an account of the development of schizophrenia in the Genain quadruplets, and an excerpt from the Ladies' Guide, a popular reference book in the 1890s, entitled *The Penalties of Self-Abuse*.

My only criticism is that far too many illustrations have been included, thereby increasing the cost of the book without enhancing its value. It would be no hardship for the reader to do without the portrait of Thomas Szasz for example, or, for that matter, photographs of Ian Ball (Princess Anne's would-be kidnapper) and of assorted bottles of drugs seized in a narcotics raid. This minor criticism apart, I warmly recommended Professor Page's fascinating book.

STEVEN GREER

### PSYCHOLOGY

**Psychological Testing.** By ANNE ANASTASI. New York and London: Macmillan. 1976. Fourth edition. Pp xiii+723. Indexes 28 pp. Price £9.25.

Anastasi's *Psychological Testing* has rightly been revered since its original publication in 1954 as an authoritative and, above all, lucid account of practical psychometrics, of value to the expert as a ready reference book and to the beginner for its painstaking exposition of difficult material. Revised editions have appeared in 1961 and 1968 and now, before we have had opportunity to regard the 1968 edition as out of date, the tireless author has provided us with a fourth edition.

Much of the material of such a revised edition naturally relates as before to the history and origins of psychological testing as well as to standard tests well known to the experienced. Readers familiar with the earlier editions will therefore welcome the similarities between the fourth edition and its predecessors. To encompass new material there has been some necessary paring of previous contents, but Anastasi's judgement and her skill in condensation are remarkable and combine to make a whole which lacks nothing vital from the past while incorporating much that is new.

Practical psychometrics, of course, is not a static science, nor yet one to be abandoned altogether despite the increasing interest in observational and other non-standard methods of assessment. The new edition reflects changes on three broad fronts, namely the general orientation towards testing, recent methodological developments and new or revised specific tests.

Taking the last of these first, it is clearly an impossible task, when test publication is burgeoning, to please all in selection of specific tests for inclusion. Tests are in fact included on the basis of importance as well as for illustration of particular points of test construction or interpretation. This reviewer has no quarrel with the selection but notes that in this area, as in others, Anastasi shows her United States focus. British tests, such as the Griffiths pre-school scale and the Williams adaptation of the Binet for the blind, are not mentioned.

Methodological advances, such as the development of criterion-referenced tests, automated testing and