

must be regarded as most successful. It means that lots of the people at whom it is directed are prepared to buy it; yet reviewers are generally people at whom the book is not directed and some may have little or no contact with the potential readers.

I read this book as one who has been teaching psychiatry to medical undergraduates for nineteen years and also as one who has recently entered into modest competition, and I have tried to see the book from the standpoint of the undergraduate.

It is good value. For 35 shillings one has a very readable distillation of considerable psychiatric experience which is designed to be helpful and informative and achieves these ends. There is a refreshing absence of that ambiguous obscurity which bedevils much psychiatric literature, and the reader is in no doubt as to what the authors are saying. Students can learn from it without undue effort and what they learn is useful.

The authors have not rested on their laurels, but have updated the text and modified some previously hallowed but now discredited views on aetiology and treatment, so that the student can buy the book with confidence.

The plates, which are retained from edition to edition, could do with similar treatment. It must be very tempting to retain plates which hardly add to the cost rather than replace them by others which would. Yet they are getting very dated now, and the book would be better without some of them.

Further criticism would merely be directed against the personal testaments of the authors rather than against the book; but these give spice and individuality and do not obtrude detrimentally and their elimination would kill the book. But who am I to object to authors including personal testaments in a text?

MYRE SIM.

HENRI EY ON CONSCIOUSNESS

'Das Bewusstsein' (Consciousness). By HENRI EY. *Phänomenologisch-psychologische Forschungen*, Band 8. Eds. C. F. GRAUMANN and J. LINDSCHOTEN. Translated into German and introduced by K. P. KISKER. (Original: *La Conscience—Le Psychologue T.16*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1963). Berlin: W. de Gruyter. 1967. Pp. 316. Price DM. 56.

This book is an excellent German translation from the original, which, of course, is in French, and it contains an introduction by the translator which considerably enhances the value of the book by relating the author and this work to its sources and to the framework of European phenomenological

thought and to psychopathology in general. (Kisker has dedicated the translation to K. Schneider on his 80th birthday.) The original was published 7 or 8 years ago and will perhaps be better known to the English-speaking public than this German translation is ever likely to be, but the book has in no way suffered by the translation and the elegance of style of the original is preserved.

Ey, who is General Secretary of the World Organization for Psychiatry, an organization brought into being largely by his own efforts, is one of the towering figures of world psychiatry of our day. Working at no university or research institute, but in a provincial hospital in France, his writings have had an arresting effect on contemporary psychiatry and psychopathology, and beyond it on psychology.

Ey, in his now well known nosology, appears as a proponent of the unitary diagnosis; and alterations in consciousness as one diameter of variability along which lie the different psychopathological syndromes are a fundamental aspect of his entire nosological theory. In re-examining the complex and illusive problem of consciousness following it through from normality to its various pathological changes, Ey brings together a great number of diverse theories and schools of thought.

Ey's teachers were Guiraud and Claude, through whom he is linked with the great tradition of French descriptive clinical psychiatry. Philosophically he is influenced by Bergson. He acknowledges the fundamental importance of Husserl's phenomenological psychology, but deals very extensively with the unconscious (which plays no part in Husserl's psychology, as being inaccessible to the phenomenological method). Ey's relationship to Freud's teachings is problematic, and is described by Kisker as a position of immanent criticism, which Ey summarized recently as 'Que je suis et que je ne suis pas psychoanalyste'. Ey also goes beyond phenomenology in another sense, in that he includes brain physiology into his psychopathology which takes him into another methodological realm. As regards his phenomenology he does not confine it to the strictly pragmatic approach of Jaspers, but includes the ontology of Husserl as it is applied in German psychiatry by Heidegger and Binswanger and in French psychiatry by Minowsky and Merleau-Ponty. Ey also draws on concepts from Gestalt psychology, particularly when he writes about relationships between neurophysiological structures and levels of consciousness, but he does not accept the theory as such and goes beyond it. He calls it 'a girl for all purposes'.

When using these diverse schools and theories, bringing them together, Ey does not subscribe to a shallow eclecticism, but strives for an integration

into a new coherent theory of consciousness. Very few contemporary heads could do this with the evident competence of Ey, who seems equally at home in all these areas and can bend what seems useful to him into an organic whole of his own creation. Whether he has in fact succeeded one will only be able to judge later.

The book is not easy to read but is well worth the effort.
J. HOENIG.

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Experimental Psychology: its scope and method.

I. History and method. By JEAN PIAGET, PAUL FRAISSE and MAURICE REUHLIN. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1968. Pp. 245. 35s.

This book is of such unusually high quality that reading it produced something akin to catharsis in me. I am certain that my health has been improved, and the medicine is available to others.

This is the first volume of a nine-volume handbook of experimental psychology, edited by Fraisse and Piaget. It is concerned with history and method, but let me assure the reader immediately that this is not tedious. There is the all-pervading influence of Piaget; and there is a 'foreignness' about the writers (compared with Anglo-American), who at the same time differ in their approach but are spontaneous and friendly in style.

The most interesting section is undoubtedly the first (Fraisse), which is historical. The contribution of workers from many countries is discussed, including those not over-represented in our texts, like France and Russia. This section discusses philosophical, experimental, statistical, medical and comparative approaches. The second section is on experimental method (Fraisse) which deals with observation, hypotheses, types of experiment and analysis of results; and there is another section on measurement, especially scaling methods (Reuchlin). These are thoughtful and quite straightforward.

Piaget contributes a section on Explanation in psychology and psychophysiological parallelism which is tough—the toughest forty pages in the book. It is highly abstract and closely argued. Discussion at this level is compulsive reading for me, but I inevitably find myself asking what 'use' it is, and whether it would not be better to go and 'do' an experiment.

This comprehensive handbook with Piaget among the editors is a significant event in psychological publishing. I look forward enthusiastically to the later volumes, especially those on the more complex aspects of personality from the standpoint of these eminent experimentalists.

SIDNEY CROWN.

A STANDARD WORK

Der Balkenmangel (Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum). By F. UNTERHARNSCHIEDT, D. JACHNIK and H. GOTT. Monographien aus dem Gesamtgebiete der Neurologie und Psychiatrie No. 128. Berlin-Heidelberg: Springer Verlag. 1968. Pp. 232. Price DM. 68.

The book, which is dedicated to Hugo Spatz on his eightieth birthday, is an up-to-date survey of the symptomatology, patho-physiology and anatomy of this rare but important condition, and a report of thirty-three cases observed by the authors. Dr. Unterharnscheidt is Chief of the Division of Neuropathology, Experimental Neurosurgery and Experimental Neurology of the University of Texas. The first symptoms were usually observed in childhood; they were cerebral seizures, mental retardation and organic personality changes.

The diagnosis can be confirmed only by pneumoencephalography. Hallucinations and delusions are rare. There is a comprehensive bibliography of the world literature on the subject. A syndrome typical of tumours involving the corpus callosum does not exist.

This book, which has a fairly detailed summary in English, is a worthy successor to Mingazzini's monograph (1922), and is sure to become a standard work to be consulted by neuropathologists, neurologists and by experts in mental subnormality.

E. STENDEL.

PHARMACOLOGY

Non-specific Factors in Drug Therapy. Edited by K. RICKELS. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1969. Pp. 149. Price \$7.75.

The idea has become established that the actions of any drug as observed in clinical practice can be divided into two parts, firstly, the pharmacodynamic actions attributable to the direct, specific properties of the drug, secondly, those not so attributable, the 'non-specific factors'. The latter are dependent on complex interactions involving the therapist, the patient, the social milieu and the act of giving tablets itself. These non-specific factors are most important, as Hamilton puts it, with respect to 'small treatments and small illnesses'. As the majority of our pharmacotherapies in psychiatry are only moderately effective, the need to examine closely the factors governing the non-specific elements of drug response is apparent.

This book contains the separately published proceedings of one of the sessions of the Fourth World Congress of Psychiatry held in Madrid in September, 1966. The session was organized and chaired by