

aim was to provide, to quote the book's subtitle, 'an alternative to institutional care' in the San Francisco Bay area. The maintenance of a community residence and the establishment of a cleaning service by a group of male long-stay patients from a large psychiatric hospital is set down in detail. The superiority and reduced cost of the 'lodge society' compared with traditional hospital treatment and community care is evident. The emphasis throughout was on increasing autonomy without dependence on social agencies. Interestingly 'the community social subsystem will have its most beneficial effect upon the most chronic patients'. The material is fully treated statistically, including processing by computer. The wealth of data presented does not make for easy reading. Eventually thirteen operating principles for the success of such an endeavour emerge.

Sadly one reads in the final chapter 'one of the most important findings of this study was the failure of an existing institution to change its methods of operation' and 'the hospital from which all the patients came was unwilling or unable to change its procedures'. 'Clearly research is not enough.' The last paragraph is given to consideration of the need to create an atmosphere favourable to innovation in this setting and the part society at large must play in bringing this about.

The experienced hospital psychiatrist will find little that is unexpected in this book. There is a surprising lack of reference to relevant British publications. It can, however, be recommended to those working for Local Health Authorities who are responsible for After-care Hostels. The authors' findings suggest that criteria for accepting long-stay patients from hospital should be less stringent than is customary. Moreover, where accommodation is available and an initial grant can be obtained it should not be difficult to test the conclusions in a different milieu.

J. E. GLANCY.

RE-ED'S OF THE FUTURE

Research Contributions from Psychology to Community Mental Health. Edited by JERRY W. CARTER, JR: New York; Behavioural Publications Inc. 1968. Pp. 110. Price \$6.45, cloth; \$2.95 paper.

Here is a short book based on a group of papers given at a symposium. The authors look to clinical psychology in the U.S.A. of 1980, when the country could contain 2,000 community mental health centres. They see a new role for the psychologist, away from

Rorschachs, away from analytic talk and interminable individual therapy, to playing a role in a team which will, for example, improve child-rearing practices among lower-class families living in poverty. An impressive first 'Re-ED' programme is described, with efforts concentrated not in the clinical but in on-the-spot, neighbourhood work and intended to 'help restore small social systems to a point of adequacy' even if only 'just above threshold'.

Emphasis is laid on staff without elaborate training, but who, with a natural gift for dealing with others, will do home visiting and provide nursery schooling for environmentally disadvantaged children. In experiments such children have been followed up and found to improve more than control children in performance on intelligence tests and in vocabulary. Especially encouraging is the evidence of 'vertical diffusion', whereby the younger siblings of those who had been to nursery schools also showed greater test improvement, and 'horizontal diffusion', whereby mothers who had learned new child-rearing practices communicated these to their neighbours—such simple skills as how to read a story to a two-year old.

The urgent spectre (or specter) of community violence lurked behind the writings in this book and, being unconvinced that clinical psychologists have found a satisfying and final place for themselves in mental health services, I found it a refreshing book.

IAN OSWALD.

A BOOK ABOUT THINKING

Experimental Psychology; its scope and method; VII Intelligence. By PIERRE OLÉRON, JEAN PIAGET, BÄRBEL INHELDER and PIERRE GRÉCO. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1963 (English Translation 1969). Pp. 283. Price 35s.

The book is (God be praised) about thinking rather than about intelligence, and reviews a somewhat arbitrary collection of studies—mainly continental European.

Oléron's enthusiasm for cognitive research is damped by a nervousness about what the behaviourists might say about it. Hence he prefers 'intellectual activities' to thought, in the hope of matching that early magic whereby the behaviourists allowed people to talk provided it was really 'verbal behaviour'. His summary is clear, and some interesting relationships between observed reasoning and classical logic are explored. However, Oléron's empiricism makes his explanation of *schema* clearly less adequate than that offered by Bartlett in 1932.