together and places them in context. The introduction talks of the reader participating in an expert examination of the issues; this doesn't really excuse the lack of an editorial examination of the work detailed in the individual chapters.

A serious defect is the lack of an index; different aspects of the same research, e.g. on the role of serotonin in bulimia, are found scattered over separate chapters. Such information is therefore difficult to find and hence hard to assimilate.

The early chapters describe research that is attempting to unravel the neurotransmitter pathways controlling food intake. They provide an interesting and exciting insight into an expanding body of information, albeit one that is proving difficult to unify within one theory. The later chapters focus on behavioural and laboratory studies of abnormal eating. Some of these concentrate overmuch on individual research projects, to the detriment of adequate background information. The chapters on eating behaviour in bulimia could have been combined in an attempt to rectify this.

While the book claims to "meld basic science with clinical relevance", it is not strong in discussing the clinical implications of the research. Details of the evolving behavioural and pharmacological treatment possibilities are given, but once again this information is scattered throughout the book without being brought together and evaluated.

As a reference source this book will have a useful place on a library shelf, providing information for the specialist that is not found in more general textbooks. However, its rather indigestible format will not tempt a wider clientele to partake of its fare.

L. M. MYNORS-WALLIS, *Registrar in Psychiatry, The Maudsley Hospital, London*

Psychoanalysis – A Theory in Crisis. By MARSHALL EDELSON. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1988. 432 pp. £31.95.

This book is a challenge to the psychoanalytic community to put its own house in order and settle its theoretical claims by scientific rather than metapsychological, hermeneutic, rhetorical, and socio-political means. It expresses the author's passionate concern for the status of psychoanalytic theory and its empirical foundations in the face of its misuse and denigration.

Part I explicates and clarifies the author's imperative claim, that a statement of each analyst's distinctive core theory of psychoanalysis is needed. His personal conviction is that psychoanalysis is a psychology of mind (not of behaviour or interpersonal interaction); more specifically, that it is an intentional psychology concerned with the science of imagination and symbolic function, particularly those aspects implicated in wish fulfilment. His core theory gives priority to unconscious sexual fantasies which have causal power and efficacy as mental dispositions and problem-solving processes. Five nomothetic themes are treated as distinctively psychoanalytic. Edelson's unnamed theory is akin to classical drive theory. Object relations theory, noted as being currently more popular, is given negligible coverage. I hope that these theorists will state their own core theory.

Part II is concerned with scientific method and explanation. Edelson seeks to justify the characteristic psychoanalytic modes of enquiry: firstly, of free association as a method for obtaining relevant data, and secondly, the case study method, used as a means for generating and testing hypotheses, but subjected to the use of certain canons of reasoning and scientific method. In the final chapter the author gives his rational grounds for belief in the causal inferences and explanations of clinical psychoanalysis.

Psychoanalysis has provided an abundance of assertions and hypotheses, but its data is regarded as questionable evidence. Here we have a formidable attempt to provide a level of remedy. On some issues, strong reservations and differing perceptions will be evoked; but not I hope on the crucial issue, that psychoanalysts must clarify and simplify their own core theory and demonstrate that its causal explanations are warranted.

The book is remarkable for its clear exposition of complex concepts and its wealth of lively argument. It should be of great interest to the research-oriented psychoanalyst, psychotherapist and psychiatrist, and may help to address those who pontificate on subjects they have ceased to explore.

BRIAN LAKE, *Hon Consultant Psychotherapist, St James's University Hospital, Leeds*

Psychology Exposed: Or the Emperor's New Clothes. By PAUL KLINE. Routledge: London. 1988. 164 pp. £25.00.

In this all-too-brief book, Britain's only Professor of Psychometrics argues that experimental psychology studies topics which are trivial and no longer central to human concerns, since having been seduced by the prestigious but barren method of science. This has led it, in particular, to avoid delving into feelings and the unconscious. Influential ideas in the main fields of psychology are examined and found wanting as being purely descriptive and without serious implications for theory or application. The major fields surveyed include memory, psychometrics, social psychology, computer models, and animal psychology. To escape being condemned with such pagan fallacies as iridology, phrenology, necromancy, and coprology, psychologists are urged in the final chapter to save themselves and their discipline by reaching out for the three methods of perceptgenetics, drive activation, and G analysis of projective tests to study the greater glories of the unconscious and

its emotional conflicts, thereby gaining greater understanding. Also thrown in are a few proposals for educational changes in the training and selection of psychologists, which do not stop short of long-term psychoanalysis, to discourage this anal obsession with trivia.

Although many of the shortcomings noted about current explanations of human behaviour appear apposite and have been made before, the general proposition of this book is not well argued. To give but a few simple examples, the topics summarily reviewed, such as memory, intelligence, love, attitudes, recognition, religion, altruism, and learning, are clearly not trivial. Many of the criticisms levelled are not primarily directed at the way in which these issues are investigated (i.e. the scientific method), but at their underlying conceptual paradigms. How the application of the techniques proposed for the salvation of psychology departs from the scientific method as presently practised by psychologists is not obvious. Unlike the treatment of material in previous chapters, the value of the concept of the unconscious is not similarly expounded or appraised. Consequently, this book provides neither a complete case nor a convincing cover for the nakedness of its subject.

DUNCAN CRAMER, *Lecturer in Social Psychology, Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University of Technology*

New Concepts in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. Edited by JOHN MUNDER ROSS and WAYNE A. MYERS. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press. 1988. 289 pp. £25.00.

A 'come-on' title and an encouraging prompt ("This looks a rather unusual book") from our trusted book review editor were sufficient to recruit a willing reviewer, but enthusiasm waned soon after receipt of this book. It is not written by Ross & Myers, as its presentation would suggest, but they are the editors of a compilation by 18 authors who between them contribute 14 chapters divided into three sections. Ross and Myers are respectively Associate Professor of Psychology and Professor of Psychiatry at Cornell. The authors all appear to be American psychiatrists or psychologists, and many of them are psychoanalysts. It is not obvious what unites them, or why these papers have been collected into a single volume. They appear to have been presented at various symposia, and many of them have been published previously in the *International Journal of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy*. The stated aim of the volume is "to augment the knowledge of the psychoanalytically informed and interested clinician. Its aims are to extend the reach of psychoanalysis beyond the consulting room".

The chapters and their references cited are fairly American in emphasis; no doubt we can be equally parochial, but in a chapter by one of the main editors entitled 'From transitional object and imaginary companion in childhood to agoraphobic companion in adult life' it seemed at first incredible that there should be no mention of, or reference to, Winnicott. On reflection, perhaps his impish spirit would regard that as a compliment and a tribute to the concept having passed into general currency, rather as Newton might not mind too much if his name was not always mentioned in connection with gravity. The book has three sections, each with separate editors; one of them is Ross, who contributes no chapter himself, although Myers contributes two. Not surprisingly in such a compilation, it is a pretty mixed bag. Section one, on 'Developmental deficits: their origin and treatments', contains the aforementioned article on transitional objects by Myers, but also a very useful review by Kelly & Olsen on the 'Real relationship in psychoanalytic psychotherapy' which has been written about much more in recent years.

Section two, on 'Consultation and supervision: the teaching and uses of psychoanalytic developmental theory', contains a useful review of the type of patient seen in liaison psychiatry with masochistic identifications. There are also chapters on consultation with schools, and another by Henri Parens on psychoanalytic contributions to parenting. Two chapters on issues of supervision, one in relation to inter-racial and transcultural treatments, both explore the parallel process as it may be repeated in supervision.

The third section, on 'Conflict and deficit: the Kernberg/Kohut controversy in theory and practice', presents useful chapters outlining the theoretical positions of Kernberg and Kohut, each followed by fairly severe criticism of them. Chapter 11, 'A critical review of Kernberg's theory of borderline personality organisation', by Kramer, is based on a report written in 1978 by the Kris Study Group of the New York Psychoanalytic Institute, which met for discussion once a month between 1973 and 1977, and this particular study group on borderline states was chaired by Charles Brenner. Chapter 12 presents an outline of Kohut's self-psychology and compares his position with that of classical psychoanalysis. The following chapter, by Akhtar, on 'Some reflections on the theory of psychopathology and personality development in Kohut's self psychology', takes Kohut to task for ignoring the contributions of other investigators and particularly forerunners such as Winnicott and Fairbairn. This chapter at least seems aware of what has been said on the other side of the Atlantic, although we would have to admit that at times these British authors too might not have appeared entirely aware of developments elsewhere. Perhaps this underlines a point, that often people with original ideas may naturally prefer to work in comparative isolation and be unaware that others elsewhere are developing similar lines of thought. All the more reason