

Psychiatry and follows a modern practice of collecting previously published papers along with specially contributed sections by different authors. It includes a review of recent literature with particular reference to psychopathology and psychotherapy in asthma, eczema and other allergic diseases including urticaria, hay fever, allergic rhinitis and gastro-intestinal allergies.

A section entitled "Food-induced Allergic Illness in Children" by William Kaufman is based entirely on somatic principles of treatment. He relies on elimination of the offending food and on treatment with adrenaline, A.C.T.H., adrenal corticoids, ephedrine, ergotamine, sedatives, aminophyllin, antispasmodics, and antihistaminics. He goes on to say that the mainstay in treatment is identification and removal of allergenic foods from the diet.

Abramson describes the psychodynamics in terms of mother-child relationship which is characterized not by family patterns of rejection but by an engulfment of the child for the parents' narcissistic situation. In conjunction with another author he describes the care of the asthmatic child in a residential unit and in private practice.

The treatment of allergic conditions in general and of asthma in particular is complex and unsatisfactory. It is necessary to face the fact that few psychiatrists in this country are given the opportunity of investigating and treating these conditions. In cynical moods one might think that this is fortunate. The psychodynamic processes are so profound that they touch the very core of being, yet prevention of such a widespread condition will depend upon the gaining of knowledge and the study of individual cases.

Much progress has still to be made before there is sufficient integration of psychiatric and somatic contributions. The book emphasizes rather than resolves the different approaches, and lacks cohesion.

J. H. KAHN.

Pediatric Psychiatry. By HALE F. SHIRLEY.
Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
1963. Pp. 796. Price 80s.

For the paediatrician who is not too busy and who has an interest in psychiatry this large volume offers a great deal of interesting reading. The author seldom gives a direct answer to a practical question but sets out in some detail many of the relevant considerations which should help the child specialist to arrive at a correct decision. Although psycho-analytically orientated the book is relatively free from jargon and is plainly written. The scope is broad, and one feels that a number of the basic



TAVISTOCK PUBLICATIONS

Sanity, Madness, and the Family

**R. D. LAING
and A. ESTERSON**

Volume I Families of Schizophrenics

This study is a major contribution to the understanding of the problem of schizophrenia. The authors question the traditional assumption that the schizophrenic suffers from an illness in the accepted medical sense. Using a phenomenological method, they have studied the families of a series of schizophrenics, and in this book they describe eleven such cases.

30s.

Reason and Violence

**R. D. LAING
and D. G. COOPER**

**A Decade of Sartre's Philosophy,
1950 - 1960**

With a Foreword by
JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

This book is a closely knit presentation of the three major works published by Sartre between 1950 and 1960: *Saint Genet, Comédien et Martyr: Questions de Méthode*; and *Critique de la Raison Dialectique*. The exposition is preceded by a brief introduction for the orientation of the reader.

25s.

11 New Fetter Lane,

London, E.C.4.

points about human personality have been made more succinctly by Shakespeare.

However, Dr. Shirley offers a great deal of information, particularly about the contemporary American scene and family structure. We learn, for example, that "in one community highly populated with movie stars . . ." (presumably Hollywood!) there is one psychiatrist for every 169 residents, compared with a national average of one for every 13,794 persons. This is mentioned apropos the difficulties resulting from success in the American culture with consequent disruption of family life. At the other extreme are "undesirable neighbourhoods and a lack of adequate educational and recreational facilities". In 1961 there were some 24 million women working in the

U.S.A. as compared with 49 million men. This has led, as in this country, to some overlap in parental roles. At the same time there has been a change from a predominantly rural to an overwhelmingly urban population. This means that the identification of the boy with the father in regard to occupation is now more difficult. In the past children grew up on the farm and worked with the father, now "children have very little idea what their father, and in some families also their mother, is doing". It is suggested that the father "remains to them a mysterious figure and sometimes, for that reason, a threatening figure".

B. H. KIRMAN.