

another area can very often arise from earlier failure and anguish. This is in fact a restatement of Freud's concept of the pleasure principle which can be replaced by the reality principle. Our greatest achievements frequently come from our necessary attempt to remove the dilemma of having lost something we most value.

The main body of the book is a well-documented series of psychoanalytic case material which admirably illustrates this theme. For anyone working in the field of psychotherapy with children or adults this must be rated as a very valuable publication. For the general reader it could be of great interest as a precipitant of unexpected insight into his personal achievement and psychopathology.

M. H. B. JOYCE.

**The Psychiatric Disorders of Childhood.** By CHARLES R. SHAW. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1966. Pp. 442. Price \$11.50.

The blurb calls this "a major work in child psychiatry. Complete, timely, and authoritative. It covers, in depth, all the main disturbances in children, etc., etc.". For any one author to write such a book and in one volume is nowadays impossible. The author's valiant attempt to do so is admirable, but he has had to leave many gaps; to exemplify—the discussion of enuresis in less than six pages fails to differentiate between the types; even a division into primary and secondary enuresis would have been a step in the right direction. As to its treatment, no one would know what to do with an enuretic on the basis of the discussion of treatment in one-and-a-half pages. Encopresis is not mentioned. Speech disorders are given one page. No mention is made of the various types of voluntary mutism. No mention could be found of sleep or eating disturbances (except anorexia nervosa, which, of course, is a rare condition). Nothing could be found either on skin diseases, including eczema. Altogether, the discussion of so-called psychosomatics is greatly disappointing and superficial.

The chapter on psychotherapy seems to cram into less than thirty pages just everything that might be given that name, including the author's own ideas on humour as a tool in psychotherapy. I am afraid I could not find his examples humorous at all. As to the psychotherapist, Dr. Shaw thinks that "professional training may be of less importance than personal inclination and intuition".

The book gives me the impression that the author is an enormously busy man with wide knowledge and experience, who wants to pass his enthusiasm on; but his book seems a hastily written compendium, with all

too many gaps yet lacking brevity. One would like to know more about what Dr. Shaw's own opinions are. He quotes a good many references, but often the quoted author's opinion remains quite unevaluated.

The child psychiatrist will find this book diffuse, incomplete and devoid of new points of view. The learner will think it confusing and lacking in leads for further study.

In all these senses the claims of the blurb are in my opinion unjustified.

D. J. SALFIELD.

**Children of Sick Parents.** By MICHAEL RUTTER. London: Oxford University Press. 1966. Pp. 146. Price 45s.

This is an extremely careful, well designed, and clearly presented study of over 250 children treated because of psychiatric disturbances and matched with a control group of about 150 children undergoing dental treatment. The sick parents all suffered from definite mental and physical illnesses, or both, or had died. About one in six of the psychiatric child patients had mentally ill, and rather more had chronically or recurrently somatically ill parents; but not all children in the family suffered. The younger they were, the more they were affected. Psychiatric child patients had sick parents three times as often as the children in the control group.

It is impossible to summarize the detailed statistics making up the bulk of the investigation, but on the basis of these statistics Rutter considers the problem of heredity versus environment as still unsettled, though he favours the view that environmental factors play a greater part in the development of psychiatric disorders in the child than genetic factors.

Dr. Rutter has produced an admirable epidemiological study supplemented by surveys of the relevant literature and very circumspect and clearly set out discussions of his own views. The book contains valuable data that may prove to have important bearings on the prevention of psychiatric disorders in childhood, and in particular on the management of children with homes disordered by disease. More studies of similar problems executed with the precision and clarity of the present study would be welcomed.

D. J. SALFIELD.

**Psychotherapy and Child Development.** By Jean Biggar. London: Tavistock Publications. 1966. Pp. 142. Price 25s.

This is a collection of lectures by the late author, delivered over the years at the Davidson Clinic,