

## Book Reviews

### I. PSYCHIATRY

**Recent Developments in Schizophrenia.** Edited by A. COPPEN and A. WALK. London: Royal Medico-Psychological Association. 1967. Pp. 158. Price 25s.

This is the first of what it is hoped will be a regular series of "Special Publications" in connection with the *British Journal of Psychiatry*. Although sub-titled "A Symposium", it consists of expanded versions of a set of lectures organized by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and given by well-known British psychiatrists and psychologists. The first article, by Professor Stengel, is on the classification of schizophrenia, and is a clear and critical evaluation of the problem. E. H. Hare writes an excellent review of the epidemiology of schizophrenia; next comes an authoritative contribution by James Shields on the genetics of schizophrenia. G. W. Browne contributes a well-balanced article on the family of the schizophrenic patient. The current biochemical theories are clearly outlined by J. R. Smythies, while Andrew McGhie discusses his own work and other studies on the cognitive disorders in schizophrenia. Social treatment, rehabilitation and management are ably dealt with by J. K. Wing; this is an extremely good paper, which among other things demonstrates what is meant by those much over used words "Social Psychiatry". R. H. Cawley discusses the physical methods of treatment in a clear and concise way, and J. Hoenig contributes an excellent review of the very difficult problem of the prognosis of schizophrenia. The final contribution is by Michael Rutter on "Psychotic Disorders in Early Childhood", which is a very thorough survey of this field.

The striking feature of this book is the well-balanced nature of all the contributions. Views which are not held by the authors are yet presented clearly and without distortion. In the present state of our knowledge a reviewer is bound to find something with which he will disagree. For example one is a little surprised by Dr. Hoenig's statement "For reasons which I do not understand the view is often expressed that Kraepelin defined his nosological entities on the basis of the course of the illness or the prognosis." In fact, in the 5th edition of his textbook Kraepelin grouped together dementia praecox, dementia paranoides and catatonia as "processes of deterioration" because they all led to a "peculiar kind of psychological defect".

Points such as this are, of course, of minor importance. This book is an excellent summary of our knowledge of many different aspects of schizophrenia, and can be recommended without hesitation to psychiatrists and psychologists who are interested in this illness.

FRANK FISH.

**Psychiatry in the Practice of Medicine.** By ALLEN J. ENELOW and MURRAY WEXLER. New York: Oxford University Press. 1966. Pp. 355. Price 52s.

The dust cover of this book suggests that it is not for psychiatrists but has been written primarily for physicians. We are told that the authors have for a number of years conducted courses designed to educate and train practising physicians in psychiatric principles and techniques. It is furthermore suggested that the book may also be of use to social workers, clinical psychologists, medical students, non-psychiatric interns, etc. Be this as it may, it is an uneven book. Its opening chapters are often wordy and cry out for rewriting in a more compact style. There is a liberal sprinkling of what some might consider to be psychiatric platitudes about the integration of psychiatry and general medicine which, while they may still have a certain amount of appeal when uttered on an appropriate platform, make rather tedious reading.

After a somewhat uncertain start, things improve, however, both stylistically and in terms of the interest of the material, particularly in the examination of the structure and development of the medical interview. The same applies to a later chapter on "process-oriented psychotherapy" in which interpersonal relationships are the main focus of interest, using methods of evocation and confrontation which owe much to Harry Stack Sullivan. From the point of view of psychiatrists-in-training at registrar level these are the most valuable parts of the book and can be read with profit.

There are also chapters on psychiatric diagnosis, psychopharmacology, psychiatric emergencies and contemporary psychotherapies.

One or two criticisms in detail can be made. Many might hesitate to make a diagnosis of Korsakov's syndrome in the absence of disorientation, though we are told that this "is not present in all cases". Similarly