

HERZENBILDUNG

Society without the Father. By ALEXANDER MITSCHERLICH. Trans. by Eric Mosbacher. London: Tavistock Publications. 1969. Pp. 329. Price 60s.

Professor Mitscherlich holds the Chair of Psychiatry at Heidelberg and is Director of the Sigmund Freud Institute. This book, published in Germany in 1963 had two primary aims: first to put on record the author's views regarding German culture, and secondly to help his colleagues to understand the psychodynamics of their behaviour and the roles they had adopted in what he feels is still very much an authoritarian hierarchical culture less changed by the war than might have been expected. Running through the book is a plea for freedom; freedom for the individual to express his views, without the risk of ostracism, particularly those of a psychological or psychoanalytical character. This review is being written as the radio announces 'even more curtailment of such freedom in Czechoslovakia'.

The German culture is seen as father-dominated, and its repressive nature is described by the author, who is, however, equally aware of the problems created by the fatherless culture as may be found in America in what he terms a sibling culture. Perhaps in England we do have something that is importantly different and are more fortunate than we realize. Certainly it is the British pattern that the author chooses to illustrate, 'a successful compromise between the right to opposition and the supraindividual duty of obedience and responsibility.'

How is one to achieve *Herzensbildung*, the education of the heart, so that the 'affects take a back seat and do not disturb and distort our picture of the world at the very moment of perception.'? The author's solution is that 'Society must educate itself to subordinating all competing interests to the education of the child', but this theme is not developed beyond the stage reached by the analysts in the early 1950s. The six years between the original publication and the appearance of the English translation is in this connection particularly unfortunate, since during the last decade much new work has been carried out both in fragmenting conceptions such as maternal care and in developing the comparisons between man and the other animals; so that the old analytical approach concerned with the relationship between parents and between child and parent, though still true, seems dated, especially when discussing the education of the child of the future, for now so many other factors are seen to be relevant.

This book provides interesting reading for it is easy to overlook how much of our work is influenced

by our personalities and the degree to which they are affected by the society in which we live. What should the relationship be between an individual and his community and is there in fact a 'should'? If uncontrolled expression of love and anger between members of a community is taboo, will the British characteristics of compromise and of toleration, all highly praised by the author, be adequate for an evolving world where technology and group movements seem to be the new determining factors? Time alone will show.

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THE COMPLETE PSYCHIATRIST

The Achievements of Paul H. Hoch, M.D.
Edited by NOLAN D. C. LEWIS, and MARGARET O. STRAHL. State University of New York Press. Albany, New York. 1968. Pp. 723. Price \$10.00.

Paul Hoch, who died in 1964, was one of the leading American psychiatrists, and made a profound impact on the practice and administration of academic and hospital psychiatry. Trained in the tradition of German neuro-psychiatry, he emigrated to New York in 1933 and soon established himself as an outstanding clinician, teacher and research worker. He felt at home with most of the divergent approaches to mental disorders and endeavoured to integrate them. He made substantial contributions to the application of the physical treatments of the psychoses. He was the chief originator of the clinical concept of pseudoneurotic schizophrenia. During the last ten years of his life he was Commissioner of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, probably the biggest job of its kind in the world. His was the mammoth task of modernising the mental health services of that vast area. The 'Master Plan for Treatment of Mental Disability' submitted by Governor Rockefeller to the State Legislature and included in the memorial volume, was master-minded by Paul Hoch.

The bulk of this impressive volume is taken up by selected contributions from Hoch's writings on clinical psychiatry, therapy, education and social psychiatry. Most of them are still topical today and can be read with benefit by every psychiatrist looking for a balanced judgement on current trends by a scholarly practitioner who was deeply involved in them. Clinical application and research were inseparable to him. The rest of the book consists of articles by friends and colleagues dealing with his achievements and his personal accomplishments. Sir Aubrey Lewis pays tribute to Hoch's work in social psychiatry; Jean Delay, Pierre Deniker and Henry Ey comment on his contribution to psychopharmacology and