

Thus the use of model psychoses to direct research does not depend on the sterile requirement that we provide any further "demonstration that the psychotomimetic drugs induce 'model psychoses'". Progress in this field should be aided by finding out more about the mode of action of known agents that produce conditions resembling psychosis, by basing working hypotheses on these data and then testing them in the clinical setting—that is, by applying the method of scientific logic.

In conclusion, this book succeeds admirably in its main task and provides the necessary but erst-while missing textbook for workers in all the many disciplines concerned in psychopharmacology.

J. R. SMYTHIES.

REFERENCES

- LAINGS, R. J., and BARR, H. L. (1968). *J. nerv. ment. Dis.*, 147, 163.
 KEELER, M. H. (1965). *Int. J. Neuropsychiat.*, 1, 630.
 SMYTHIES, J. R. (1969). "Behavioural models of psychosis." *Brit. J. Psychiat.*, 115, 55–68.

The Problems and Prospects of LSD. Edited by J. THOMAS UNGERLEIDER. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1968. Pp. 109. Price \$5.00.

None can fail to be alarmed at the phenomenon of "LSD hysteria" in the United States, described in this book. This phrase refers collectively to the emotionally toned, distorted statements, beliefs, rumours and outcries against the effects of LSD and the purposes for which it is being used. The authors' aim is to show clearly the nature of this phenomenon and the dangers associated with its perpetuation.

Among lay opinions contributing to "LSD hysteria" quoted are that LSD is the greatest threat to national security since the axis powers during the war, or that it is the last chance for world peace. One view-point states that within hours of taking the drug all consumers are transformed into murderers or permanent psychotics, whereas others believe that the transformation is in the direction of creative genius and eternal happiness.

Against this backcloth, the five authors, all of whom are experienced in work with LSD, give professional views. The first chapter is devoted to definitions of basic concepts and to difficulties associated with the study of a problem which is now changing in nature and expanding. Attention is drawn to the confused attitudes of some official bodies towards the use of drugs, particularly their failure to contrast cannabis with LSD. The inclusion of a brief history of man's use of mind-altering

drugs gives perspective, while several sweeping administrative changes, and reform in society are recommended to solve the problem of drug abuse.

The second chapter is a useful review of the scientific findings, and the author points out that research has stopped short of the discovery of the way in which this remarkable drug produces its effects. A possible analogy is suggested between the decline of hypnosis as a medical therapeutic technique after it was popularized on the stage, and the present decline of research into LSD. Succeeding chapters are devoted to the use of LSD in psychotherapy and to the acute and chronic side effects. Later, each author in turn gives his view of the prospects for LSD, and here too there is disparity. Most agree, however, on the need for further research into the possible therapeutic value of the drug and its remote and toxic effects.

In portraying the scene of LSD hysteria the authors have been successful. They are all familiar with the scene, and no exaggeration is needed in writing of this stultifying situation. Further research may help scientists to understand this drug, but surely it requires a vastly different project to understand those who need the drug, and to explain its increasing, simultaneous use in many countries. The authors are, appropriately, more concerned with describing the scene than with discussing solutions, and not all accept the whole matter as pessimistically as one who writes: "None of this should be surprising in a world perhaps on the eve of destruction."

JOHN POLLITT.

GENERAL PSYCHIATRY

Fundamentals of Psychiatry. By IAN GREGORY. Second edition. London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1968. Pp. 647. Price £5 10s. 6d.

This is the second edition of a text which originally appeared in 1961. The book was written for medical students and for general physicians, and the author originally set himself forbidding targets: "to be concise yet comprehensive, scientific and systematic, descriptive and dynamic; to include directive-organic and analytic-psychological approaches to treatment and to integrate biological and psychosocio-cultural research on aetiology". Not surprisingly these high ideals were not all reached by the first edition, valuable as much of its contents proved to be. This second edition is larger, has been written with the help of five other psychiatrists who have contributed special sections, and sets out with more modest aims. It provides a stimulating, although to English eyes a somewhat unbalanced, textbook.

The book can be divided into two parts: the first deals with general principles of aetiology, classification and treatment, the second describes specific psychiatric syndromes. The first part is readable, yet thorough. A historical introduction is followed by chapters on problems of definition and classification in psychiatry, and it is good to see a certain number of references to English and Continental research as well as to American work both here and in other parts of the book. Psychodynamic concepts are explained clearly, but kept in balance with other topics such as genetics and social factors. An interesting chapter is devoted to the analysis of causation in psychiatry, while the contribution of experimental psychology and studies of physique are given appropriate consideration, though the results of biochemical research receive little attention. The chapter on somatic treatment gives concise information about the structure and pharmacology of the drugs which are used.

The second part is less satisfactory. In the first edition the major psychiatric syndromes were described without the use of illustrative case histories. In the new edition this plan has been changed and lengthy case histories are included. While carefully chosen case histories can bring the subject alive to students who have little first-hand experience with psychiatric patients, the ones in this book are often so lengthy that their point is lost; moreover at times they tend to replace systematic description instead of supplementing it. In a book directed to medical students and physicians it is not always easy to decide what balance should be struck between the various syndromes, but it does seem inappropriate to devote only one and a half pages to anxiety reactions and over fifty pages to schizophrenia and paranoid states, important though the latter are to psychiatrists. More than this, a whole page of the one and a half devoted to anxiety reactions is taken up by a simple case history. Other criticisms could be made of this second section; for example conversion reactions are discussed without adequate reference to differential diagnosis or to the possibility of underlying organic disease or depression—a serious omission in a book directed to general physicians. On the other hand the section on depression is more satisfactory, and topics such as delinquency, sexual deviations and alcoholism are discussed, while there are chapters on mental retardation and child psychiatry.

It is to be hoped that in the next edition the clinical descriptions of psychiatric illness will be revised to bring them up to the same standard as is reached by the discussion of general principles in the first part of the book.

Unfortunately, it seems likely that this second edition, which exceeds 600 pages, has outgrown the capacity—and the pocket—of most of the medical students for whom it was written. Physicians will find in it much to interest them, and it can be recommended with reservations to psychiatrists in training, provided that they look elsewhere for more adequate clinical descriptions.

M. G. GELDER.

Psychiatrie im Grundriss. By HANS JOERG WEITBRECHT. Second edition. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. 1968. Pp. 490. Price \$11.50.

Freely translated, the author states in the foreword to the first edition: "this book is designed to trace out—understandably in a way which seems appropriate to the author—the groundplan of a building called clinical psychiatry". Later on he explains: "Whether student or physician, the reader should be made to understand that psychiatry remains in a state of rapid development, and he should be permitted an occasional glance over the fence surrounding the building plot. Here the prospect in view is very different from that of a completed edifice of knowledge." It does not, therefore, appear to be the author's intention to impart a simple and straightforward grounding and foundation in psychiatry to medical students; rather does he wish to introduce them, as well as postgraduates, to the labyrinthine intricacies of our specialty. The book accordingly demands concentrated reading and hard work. It is to the credit, not only of the author but also of the intellectual standard of his readership, that within four years of first publication a second and revised edition has become necessary.

Much of the presentation is straightforward, racy, or even rumbustious. The advice given to the beginner on history taking, the first approach to the patient and to members of his family, further exploration, record keeping, etc., is splendid. But soon we come to a section on descriptive psychopathology which is highly systematized; it is admitted, however, that this kind of approach is very artificial, and the clinical examples of various disorders of experiencing, talking, and behaving are telling and well chosen. The author appears to be largely under the influence of philosophical psychology, and too little is said about the contributions that have been made by psychophysical and psychometric studies. The book ends with a concise section on forensic problems, but it is surprising that child psychiatry is also relegated to the Appendix and inadequately treated on only twelve pages; by contrast, some sixty pages