

an index of trends in the development of character in selected populations. In short, the domain of mental tests, statistics, experiments, educational psychology and the like is of no less practical importance, especially in the management of psychiatric problems in children, than the more esoteric realm of luxuriant psychopathology; but it is a good deal more exacting to apply. It embodies a down to earth discipline, concerned more with what is actually happening in the daily lives of children, and with what is to become of them, than with intriguing speculations of the relevance of past experience, individual or collective.

In this practical field, Sir Cyril Burt's work is outstanding in this country, and his Heath Clark Lectures (1933) from which this book is derived remain a unique pioneer's presentation of the subject, even today. The author scrutinizes and gives his views, based on a vast experience, about mental deficiency, backwardness, delinquency and neurosis, in a most readable manner and one that makes a strong appeal to innate commonsense. He has his own foibles—who among original researchers has not?—and if he uses expressions like “sthenic neuroses” and “asthenic neuroses”, which are today strange to ordinary psychiatrists, at least his descriptions leave no doubt about what he means by them; but he is rather given to footnotes, some of inordinate length.

There is a good introductory chapter on the normal mind which throws up in sharp contrast those on subnormal and other abnormal states that follow. An appendix includes valuable details of tests and a questionnaire on neurotic symptoms. The bibliography is adequate.

One gets the impression that in this edition the author contrives to keep his readers up to date, without losing the characteristic flavour of the original work. He is by no means mechanistic in his outlook; on the contrary, his technical studies are clearly made upon a background of broad human understanding, and they surely go a considerable way to achieving one of the implied objectives of a work such as this—human enlightenment.

This book continues to be a desirable inclusion for the library of every place, medical, educational, and administrative, that has a hand in the psychiatry of children.

IAN SKOTTOWE.

Recent Advances in Neurology and Neuropsychiatry. By SIR RUSSELL BRAIN, Bt., M.A., D.M., P.R.C.P., and E. B. STRAUSS, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. J. & A. Churchill, Limited, London, 1955. Pp. 311. Price 30s. Sixth edition.

The appearance of a new edition of this work will be welcomed by senior clinicians who want to keep themselves up to date with solid advances, but who can ill spare the time to sift grain from chaff, and by junior specialists in training who are preparing for special examinations in neurology and psychiatry or higher examinations in general medicine.

The subject matter has been revised and expanded to include diverse syndromes—for example, carcinomatous neuropathy, the carpal tunnel syndrome, Coxsackie disease and portal-systemic encephalopathy—that have received special attention or original notice in the past ten or twelve years. Advances in treatment, too, are briefly described, including the relevance of antibiotics and the modern drug treatment of epilepsy; but the tranquillizing drugs are not discussed.

Dr. Denis Hill now contributes a chapter on electro-encephalography, and Dr. David Sutton one on neuroradiology, both of them well illustrated. Mr. Douglas Northfield writes a brief chapter on intracranial tumours.

The authors remain true to the principles they adopted in the first edition, namely, that all subjects treated should have a clinical bearing and that the book should be an auxiliary text-book of applied neurology containing selected material and references (the latter continue to be extremely well chosen) with no claims to comprehensiveness. In the light of this pronouncement, the reader will not cavil at the predominance of neurological over psychiatric matter. On the contrary, the

practising psychiatrist will be grateful to find a high degree of relevance to his specialty in the authors' selection and presentation of their material. In short, a psychiatrist is likely to learn more about neurology than a neurologist could learn about psychiatry from this work. With advancing knowledge, the territory common to both these aspects of medicine is expanding and conceptual distinctions of specialties are less important than the sharing of knowledge to the general advantage. One ventures to hope that it may be thought that psychiatry and psychology could have a little more to offer in future editions. An account of advances in knowledge of the higher functions of the nervous system, especially in relation to the clinical fields of electro-encephalography and cerebral surgery, might well be accompanied by, for instance, an account of advances in the testing and, where practicable, the measurement of those functions. It is usual in many centres for detailed psychological testing to precede such operations as leucotomy, especially the surgically limited varieties of it, as well as hemispherectomy and partial lobectomy; and much can be learned from applying such tests to patients with cerebral tumours and other gross lesions. Not only are they of immediate clinical value but they provide yet another opportunity for operational research; an account of them would be in line with the principles of this excellent work and might further enhance its value.

IAN SKOTTOWE.

The Psychology of Abnormal People. By JOHN J. B. MORGAN, Ph.D., and GEORGE D. LOVELL, Ph.D. Longmans, Green and Co., London. Second edition. Pp. 673; figs. 20. Price 35s.

This is a psychological rather than a psychiatric book, though it deals in part with mental disorders, including psychoneuroses, schizophrenia, manic-depressive illness and organic disturbances, and with psychotherapy. In the authors' words, it is intended ". . . to interest students in abnormal behaviour so that they may both (a) understand abnormal people better and (b) understand some of their own abnormal behaviour through seeing exaggerations from the normal in bold relief". They take the view that knowledge of this kind is part of the culture of an educated citizenry, so they use plain English wherever they can and they include a glossary of technical terms. But they make it clear that an introductory course in general psychology is a desirable pre-requisite to a study of their book.

The tone of the book may be misjudged from the title of the first chapter: "How to understand Unusual Persons". The authors go straight to the heart of their subject before turning to a more conventional presentation of it, step by step, in chapters on disorders of intelligence, sensation, perception, association, memory and emotion. They then pass into the clinical field, about two-thirds of the way through the book. A psychobiological and psychodynamic orientation—by no means overdone—is suitably blended with less personal, more scientific, material. Despite the initial aura of informal and easy exposition, this is by no means a shallow, "popular" work in the sense of "psychology for the masses", or anything of that kind. It is in fact a serious exposition in a very readable form of a substantial part of the practical and clinical psychological fields by authors whose scientific and academic standing is impeccable and who know how to formulate their material for an educated laity without losing the constantly recurring stimulus of something new and interesting to be found in the next chapter.

References are well chosen and abundant, and in the clinical chapters the authors rightly draw freely on the established works of acknowledged leaders in that field; and they contrive to present the gist of them in a balanced and realistic way.

This book would make excellent background reading for clinical psychologists, social workers and, indeed, for psychiatrists who are open-minded enough to be interested in someone else's outlook on their work; and it would serve as helpful additional introductory background reading for the junior specialist in training—to be taken in leisurely stages. If it has a fault it is that, in Britain at any rate, it might be considered rather too long and rather too full of information for its primary