

Behavioural Pharmacology. By SUSAN D. IVERSEN and LESLIE L. IVERSEN. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1975. Pp xiv+306. Index 4 pp. Price £5.50, £2.75 (paper).

The matrimonial partnership of an experimental psychologist and a neuropharmacologist is ideally situated for the creation of a book on behavioural pharmacology. This volume contains five chapters. The first is devoted to a description of the techniques used in the analysis of normal and abnormal behaviour in animals, with particular reference to classical and operant conditioning. Chapter 2 covers basic pharmacological principles concerned with the transport of drugs to the brain and the analysis of their effects. Chapter 3 deals with the determinants of drug action, including such factors as dose-response relations, mode of administration, reinforcement and punishment schedules and general environmental conditions. Chapter 4 covers the effects on behaviour of various groups of drugs, including amphetamines, barbiturates, antidepressants, anxiolytics, opiates, hallucinogens and anti-psychotic drugs. The final chapter deals with animal models of psychosis and their place in the development of clinically useful new drugs, the role of dopamine in Parkinson's disease, and neurochemical theories of affective disorders.

This is an interesting combination of topics not usually found in juxtaposition. The behavioural aspects receive more detailed treatment than the pharmacological, which are sketchy and sometimes inaccurate, e.g. 'mania is unresponsive to phenothiazines' (p 205), 'l-dopa fails to induce psychosis' (p 271). Despite these shortcomings, and some misprints, this is a useful book for students of psychopharmacology.

K. DAVISON

MISCELLANEOUS

Mental Hospitals. By CLAGETT G. SMITH and JAMES A. KING. Lexington: D. C. Heath & Co. 1975. Pp ix+191. Index 8 pp. Price £8.00.

Clagett Smith and James King attempt to analyse those aspects of the work and organization of mental hospitals which affect patients' care, successful rehabilitation or discharge rates. They made measures of hospital effectiveness in eighteen mental hospitals spread across the United States but differing in size, resources and the proportion of acute to chronic patients. The effectiveness measures were then correlated with measures of hospital functioning; these included aspects of the immediate work environment, communication and co-ordination and ward phenomena. Finally regression analysis techniques

were used to isolate the independent contribution of those factors affecting outcome.

One may question the validity and reliability of some of the measuring instruments which are listed but often not adequately described. The authors' expressed confidence in their data depends on indirect evidence.

It is not an easy book to read. The English is tortuous and the jargon 'social psychological'. Many psychiatrists will consider that the findings are too general or too obvious. Thus they will not be surprised to learn that small units are better than large mental hospitals and 'therapeutic' wards more effective than those with a 'custodial' orientation. The authors do show how particular aspects of the hospitals' organization have differing effects on patients and staff. In doing this they may well have laid the foundation for further research which will be of greater use to the hospital psychiatrists.

DOUGLAS BENNETT

Bodily Communication. By MICHAEL ARGYLE. London: Methuen & Co Ltd. 1975. Pp viii+390. Indexes 11 pp. Price £8.50, £3.90 (paper).

This book presents systematic and comprehensive information on the topic of non-verbal communication. It is divided into three main parts. In the first the author discusses the biological and cultural roots of bodily communication in both humans and animals; in the second the different uses of bodily communication are examined. In the first three chapters the author describes the non-verbal signals which are used to manage social situations in order to express attitudes and emotions to other people, as well as to inform about the self. One chapter is dedicated to the use of non-verbal communication in speech, in an attempt to demonstrate the highly dependent relationship that exists between language and non-verbal communication. The final chapters in this section deal with several aspects of non-verbal communication in society, such as bodily expression in rituals and ceremonies, and in politics. In the third part the author describes the different bodily signals used in non-verbal communication, such as facial expression, direction of gaze, gestures and bodily movements. Here he devotes one chapter to the interesting topic of spatial behaviour, describing how proximity, orientation and changes in position can serve as social interaction signals. Finally, the author discusses—albeit only briefly—the importance of training in non-verbal communication in the areas of mental health, education and inter-cultural encounters.

This is an interesting and readable book which can be recommended to those working in the clinical

fields of psychiatry and psychology. The book is also a very useful source of information, as each chapter is followed by an ample list of references.

MARIA A. WYKE

Theories of Group Processes. Edited by CARY L. COOPER. London: John Wiley & Sons. 1975. Pp x+272. Index 5 pp. Price £7.95.

This book sets out to explore a variety of conceptual models upon which theories of group processes can be based. It also aims to enhance our understanding of group behaviour and to provide a comprehensive picture of small and large group processes and dynamics. The topics covered range from interpersonal trust in group processes, group organization and team building, the leader and the experiential group, winners and losers and the search for equality in groups, and many more. Some of the chapters are so condensed that they are difficult to read, and there is a good deal of armchair speculation which is so abstract that one wonders about its possible relevance to group life in reality. There is little attempt to relate new speculations to existing knowledge, and research in analytic group psychotherapy has been largely ignored. One is left with the impression of a hydra type of development with new growth points detaching themselves from the main body and developing largely in isolation.

The book falls far short of achieving its objectives, but despite its many obvious defects it does contain parts that are challenging and of interest, and for these alone it should not be ignored by those who are concerned with group processes, whether teachers, managers or group psychotherapists.

JOHN A. HARRINGTON

Mental Handicap. By GORDON DUTTON. London and Boston: Butterworths. 1975. Pp. ix+176. Price £6.00.

This book by a well-known specialist in this subject has been written in the Postgraduate Psychiatry Series and is explicitly intended as a text for use in psychiatric training. As such it is an interesting addition to the very small number of books on mental handicap for the general medical reader, especially the trainee psychiatrist working for his Membership.

Such a general introductory text is much more difficult to write than an exhaustive textbook because of the enormous width of problems presented by mental handicap to the clinician. This is particularly so when it comes to the great number of rare clinical conditions which can be responsible for the occurrence of intellectual and social deficits. Dr Dutton strikes the right balance between the need to be exhaustive and dealing in adequate detail with those conditions which can give the understanding of the issues concerned. He is to be commended on dealing succinctly and informatively with such new advances in mental handicap as karyotyping, amniocentesis and dermatoglyphics. It would perhaps have been more helpful, however, if dermatoglyphics had been presented as a finding common to all chromosome conditions rather than being restricted to Down's Syndrome. Aetiology and preventive work are well dealt with.

It is obviously a personal decision how much weight to give to each individual area of the specialty, and in the reviewer's opinion the author could profitably have devoted more space to purely psychiatric aspects and to genetic counselling than he has done in his competent but rather compressed chapters. It is a pity that E. O. Lewis's historic contribution in developing the epidemiological studies has not been given any recognition.

Dr Dutton appears to be less sure of himself when dealing with the social aspects, particular with the provision of services. He tends to pass over too lightly the relationship of intelligence to social competence and accepts too easily the cut-off of mental handicap at an IQ of 70. He gives without any discussion details of the present fashionable attitudes towards 'normalization' and 'community care' to the point of reproducing the Department of Health and Social Security's figures and even referring to patients as 'clients'! It is fair to expect a more critical attitude in an area of such great social and professional importance.

I very much hope that Dr Dutton will deal with these points in a second edition of this book, which from its overall excellence is bound to be needed before long.

A. SHAPIRO