

as are their variations with factors such as age, sex, handedness and level of consciousness. However, the distinguishing feature of this book is the application of this technique to psychiatric disorders. Professor Shagass's personal investigation of more than 2,000 psychiatric patients with neurotic and psychotic illness and his findings derived from several hundred studies in control subjects are impressive.

Although parts of this book will be read with interest by general psychiatrists, it is primarily directed to those working in the field of EEG research related to psychiatric disorders. This is a difficult and growing area of research and it is inevitable that some of the observations and conclusions will be challenged by other workers. Nevertheless, this book serves both as an invaluable guide to those contemplating studies in this field and as a stimulus for future avenues of research.

KURT SCHAPIRA.

DEVELOPMENT

The Biopsychology of Development. Edited by E. TOBACH, L. R. ARONSON and E. SHAW. London: Academic Press. 1971. Pp. 593. Price £10.50.

To bend the reviewer's jargon, this is not a book to buy for your own library but one to borrow from someone else's. Jet-setting symposiasts invariably produce papers varying from the outstanding to the abysmal. This conference is no exception. It is truly multi-disciplinary, the development of behaviour being looked at through the eyes of genetics, neurology, embryology, biochemistry, endocrinology, ethology, psychology and anthropology.

To this reviewer the ethologists, whose section is concerned with the development of social behaviour, emerge head and shoulders above the rest both for the intrinsic interest of their subject and its potential for throwing light on the development of human behaviour. R. A. Hinde's critical discussion: 'Problems in the study of the development of social behaviour' is a gem; and J. S. Rosenblatt's review of experimental work on suckling and home orientation in the kitten is wholly relevant to the psychiatrist. Ethologists seem able to observe behaviour carefully (not just experimental 'results'), to study worth-while problems, and to develop methods which go some way towards a successful compromise between natural history and experimental psychology. Neural developmental processes get my second section prize. Thus the wiring of the developing brain for adaptive function (Sperry); the development of embryonic motility (Hamburger); the ontogenesis of sensory function in birds and mammals (Gottlieb); and the origin and early deve-

lopment of neural elements in the human brain (Windle) are extremely apposite to anyone trying to clarify to themselves the problem of personality development in the very young child. Third section prize goes to biochemical processes. W. A. Himwich takes the lid off and shows that the methodology of biochemistry is not always as rigorous and super-scientific as admiring (or self-denigratory) psychiatric researchers might be tempted to assume; and that seasoned campaigner Frank A. Beach delivers a fantastic blast at a contemporary sacred cow: the organizational concept of early hormone action on the developing nervous system.

Unfortunately the closer to complex human behaviour the topic, the more trivial the contribution, with the pinnacles, sadly, being contributions by Margaret Mead and B. F. Skinner, almost devoid of original thought. Which might perhaps suggest to conference organizers, if they do not know it already, that active young investigators put more into their papers on the whole than respected elder statesmen.

SIDNEY CROWN.

ETHOLOGY

The Dominant Man. By HUMPHRY KNIPE and GEORGE MACLAY. Souvenir Press. 1972. Pp. 195. Price £2.00.

Ethologists, having defined patterns of behaviour in animals, are busily occupied in showing how they apply to human beings. The authors of this book maintain that genetically influenced dominance—submissive behaviour contributes basically to the formation of the hierarchical structure of societies whether animal or human, primitive or sophisticated. The establishment of dominance amongst animals involves a set of confrontation behaviours in which a pseudo-fight takes place stopping short of serious physical damage; body size and eye power are significant factors in the outcome of the conflict. The winner signals his success with behaviour patterns which are repeated from time to time to remind the group of his position. As the result of contests of a like kind amongst progressively less powerful members of the group an effective and coherent social structure is organized and maintained with remarkable stability. In the process the authors find that elation and depression are important adaptive mechanisms: the former being the appropriate affect for sustained dominance, the latter the means by which the loser comes to accept his inferior status.

The behaviour of animals is interestingly compared with human hereditary classes and industrial ranking systems. The authors find more sense than is usual in

Freud's reconstruction of the primal herd as a basic pattern lying at the root of society.

Lucidly written, it will appeal to those who want complex research condensed into a form that can be easily assimilated in non-technical language. Notes and bibliography give access to the literature.

MICHAEL FORDHAM.

PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychological Experiment. Edited by H. B. PEPINSKY and M. J. PATTON. Pergamon Press. 1972. Pp. 193. Price £3.50.

Advances in Experimental Clinical Psychology. Edited by H. E. ADAMS and W. K. BOARDMAN. Pergamon Press. 1972. Pp. 219. No price stated.

In addition to a steadily increasing flow of original articles in journals, publishers in our expanding economy also subject us to a proliferation of volumes 'edited by', and one may reasonably ask what should be the purpose of such volumes. My own view is that their prime object should be as representative collections of views or reviews related to a specific topic, or summaries of the present 'state of play' in a particular field, pitched at the level of a defined readership—general, undergraduate or research—and not as vehicles for publication of new material or magpie collections of odds and ends. I think it is also desirable that the title of a volume should be a valid indicator of its contents.

By these criteria, neither of the above volumes can be either commended or recommended. The first turns out to be a collection of studies based on Ph.D. theses and largely financed by the Merchon Center for Education in National Security at Ohio State University. The studies fall within the general scope of social psychology and concern contrived 'counsellor-client' situations or 'negotiations' between individuals over, for example, vast (imaginary) sums of money. It will not surprise readers to learn that 'when a counsellor accurately responds to a client-confederate as a friendly rather than as a hostile person, the counsellor will be induced to make more favourable responses to (a) the client, and (b) himself. Whether a 'negotiation' conducted in writing by subjects seated back-to-back bears any relation to real-life events is a matter for conjecture: that the editors themselves are a little uncertain about the validity of the studies is suggested by their frequent placing in inverted commas of quite ordinary and unambiguous words.

The title of the second volume is even more misleading than that of the first, suggesting as it does a review of recent advances in the field; but the

editors have little to say about the miscellaneous articles collected, except as an answer to the proposition they advance that 'once psychology lost its mind, and now clinical psychology has lost its faith'. Among the chapters which do little to restore this faith is one by Chapman who warns against the perpetuation of psychodiagnostic errors—which is not surprising since he is considering interpretations of the Draw-a-Person and Rorschach tests; one (by far the longest) by Zigler on 'The Retarded Child as a Whole Person', which has some perspicacious observations on the effects of social background and institutionalization, but is largely a voluminous account of his own work; and an extraordinary account by Cleveland, in the name of intervention in the community, of an attempt by psychologists to modify the racial attitudes of policemen in Houston, Texas. There is a good chapter by Hare on psychopathic behaviour: a wide ranging review of recent work with a good bibliography. (It is interesting that psychopaths tend to go to sleep during long experiments; one wonders if this is also true in long court hearings.) Finally Maher, who was, according to the editors, 'selected to evaluate briefly the materials presented by the contributors', wisely refrains from doing so, except for the gentle comment that 'it is difficult to be sanguine about . . . activities . . . subsumed under the heading 'community psychology'. Instead, he gives a brief account of the swings of theory which have occurred in American clinical psychology. To neither of the fields which provide a solid basis for faith in experimental clinical psychology, behaviour therapy and neuro-psychology, is even a part of a chapter devoted: but then, these are fields in which the lion's share has been British.

JOHN MCFIE.

The Seventh Mental Measurement Yearbook, Vols. I and II. Edited by OSCAR K. BUIROS. New Jersey: Gryphon Press. 1972. Pp. 1,986. Price \$55.00.

There are three major perpetual works of reference in the field of psychology which a clinical psychology department might harbour. *Psychological Abstracts*, which are only for those so utterly devoted to 'the literature' that they cannot bear to miss a drop of the waterfall as it descends upon our heads; *The Annual Review of Psychology*, which is eminently useful, particularly for those who have research inclinations; and *The Mental Measurements Yearbook* which is absolutely necessary for those who wish to use, and to avoid the pitfalls of, psychological tests.

This seventh edition runs to a massive two volumes and maintains a high critical standard in reviewing