

occurs in a sufficient number of the articles to reduce the value of the book. The editor could have been more ruthless, too, with the diagrams, as some of them are confusingly complex: for example, in the article on the EEG findings in patients with renal insufficiency, 19 different variables are shown in one figure.

The conclusions of the Conference, in the final chapters, that the concepts of idiopathic epilepsy should now be discarded, are probably not as universally accepted as the editors would have us believe, but they do without doubt represent the views of the 'Marseilles school of epilepsy'. This book is not of general psychiatric interest, but it could be a useful reference work for neurophysiologists or those clinicians with a physiological bias who are dealing mainly with epilepsy.

P. FENWICK.

#### A CONCISE WORKING MANUAL

**U.C.H. Notes on Psychiatry.** Edited by R. F. TREGOLD and H. H. WOLFF. Gerald Duckworth. 1970. Pp. 293. Price 50s

University College Hospital's Department of Psychiatry, in common with many other similar teaching institutions, clearly follows the practice of distributing mimeographed notes or 'broadsheets' to their students to supplement and consolidate material presented in lectures. It is inevitable that such notesheets should eventually be collected and brought together in published form. This process has produced some excellent manuals in other medical subjects, and the present manual of psychiatric notes is a welcome addition to this literature.

These notes are excellently presented. The authors have managed to preserve conciseness without making the 'notes' format too obvious, and at the same time have managed not to sacrifice style for brevity, hence the final outcome is a nicely-presented and easily-readable textbook. One might have assumed, perhaps, that the multiple authorship of the original notes would have been reflected to some extent in the text of the book; the fact that this is nowhere apparent is a tribute to the editors, whose task it was to convert a heterogeneous collection of notes into a series of 'uniform' chapters.

It is a truly concise working manual of psychiatry. Every relevant topic is considered, with first-class chapters on Examination of the Patient and on Psychodynamics. There are, too, the usual topics of Psychiatric Syndromes, Methods of Treatment, and Psychosomatic Conditions. A descriptive summary of the psychiatric services in Britain, and of ethical problems related to psychiatry (e.g. termina-

tion of pregnancy and euthanasia) are also included.

This book will be of great value to students of medicine and psychiatry, and would form a valuable psychiatric manual for the general practitioner. I am certain it will quickly establish itself as a standard text.

T. R. WILSON.

#### COMING OF AGE

**Difficulties in the Path of Psychoanalysis.** By ANNA FREUD. New York: International Universities Press. 1969. Pp. 83. Price \$4.00.

This little book marks the appearance in print of the lecture delivered by Anna Freud in New York City on 16 April 1968. It was the 18th Freud Anniversary Lecture sponsored by the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.

I had the good fortune to attend this meeting at which Anna Freud presented her paper in her usual charming and gracious manner. What impressed me, apart from the content of the lecture, was the size of the audience and the enthusiastic reaction to her remarks. When one considers the small number of people who attended Freud's early lectures in Vienna, one could not help but be struck by the capacity attendance that came to hear Anna Freud. I was struck too by the large number of young people, as well as the many senior analysts, in the audience. It was vivid testimony that psychoanalysis has indeed come of age.

Anna Freud divides her considerations of the difficulties to which psychoanalysis is exposed today under three general headings: those coming from the public; those from the patients; and those from the psychoanalysts themselves.

Under the first heading she compares the widespread acceptance of psychoanalysis today with the ridicule to which it was exposed in the early days of its existence. She indicates, however, that there are still many challenges which psychoanalysis must meet today. One difficulty results from the lessening of the appeal of analysis for today's young people, who feel that 'psychoanalysis is now in the hands of the parent generation and as such suspect.'

In the second part of her book she turns to a consideration of the difficulties coming from the patients.

She is very critical of the trend toward the analysis of the earliest stages of the individual's development. She also raises the controversial point about the unique role of transference in the psychoanalytic process to the exclusion of other avenues of communication, specifically whether transference really has the power to transport the patient back as far as the beginning of life. She raises the serious question