

cognitive strategies to bypass deficits, amongst others). Second, only two aspects of neurological impairment were considered (epilepsy and learning disability with and without hyperkinesia) again to the exclusion of several other important areas such as language and memory disorders, the effects of aging, personality disturbances and the apraxias and agnosias. Finally, the practical utility of the book is still further reduced by the fact that over three quarters of it provides only background information—indeed, only two of the seven chapters centre firmly on actual treatment.

Within these confines, it is a clearly written volume providing an easy to digest introduction to the use of biofeedback in neurology. The reader concerned with the wider field could supplement their interest with Trimble's *Neuropsychiatry* or Powell's *Brain Function Therapy*.

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Boundary and Space. By MADELEINE DAVIS and DAVID WALLBRIDGE. London: Karnac. 1981. Pp 196. £9.00.

Solace: The Missing Dimension in Psychiatry. By PAUL C. HORTON. Chicago and London. University of Chicago Press. 1981. Pp 186. \$15.00.

There is a large literature, mostly psychoanalytic, about the work of D. W. Winnicott which reflects his influence on his own and succeeding generations of psychoanalysts, other members of the caring professions and the general public. One author, who has already published a joint paper on D. W. Winnicott is Madeleine Davis, who, with the advice and assistance of David Wallbridge, has now written *Boundary and Space*. This book is an introduction to the work of D. W. Winnicott and is divided into three parts. The first part describes how Winnicott's theories of the child's emotional development were formed from his practice in paediatrics and psychoanalysis. It focuses on the crucial early paper by Winnicott, "Observations of Infants in a Set Situation"; it is in this paper that there is a highly original commentary on the spatula game. The second part provides a coverage of the main themes in Winnicott's writings; the third part takes up some of the implications of these themes. This last part is more interesting and alive in its style. It could have been usefully enlarged, as could the rather limited list of references to works about Winnicott by other authors.

The second book, *Solace* is by an American psychiatrist, Dr Paul Horton. It is a somewhat less scholarly and more personal account of the way in which the author has found helpful Winnicott's

concept of transitional phenomena in his psychiatric practice. Its style and imagery are sentimental and at times confusing. Winnicott made the observation that the use of transitional phenomena were a prerequisite to healthy emotional development. This was by virtue of their role in helping the infant to find the potential space of illusion between himself and the mother. The concept of transitional phenomena does indeed have immense implications for clinical psychiatry. It is Winnicott who showed us that if we ignore these phenomena and are not prepared for their occurrence in clinical practice, then we may never find that space between us and our patients from which a symbolic and therapeutic dialogue may emerge.

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Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Volume XII. Edited by JOSEPH WORTIS. New York: Brunner/Mazel. 1981. Pp 192. \$20.00.

Through Dr Wortis the annual volumes on mental retardation have provided important reviews of major topics.

Though in this edition most contributors are American, describing the American scene, William McCord's contribution on the staffing of community residences for the mentally handicapped can be read with profit by all who are involved in expanding community residential care. The British contribution by Kirman is too wide, touching many aspects of progress and problems, none in sufficient depth to be of value to the specialist; also his vision has a pessimistic quality, e.g. he refers briefly to the Ely and Normansfield reports without attempting to describe the considerable improvement in services which has now followed locally but also nationally. Perhaps in a future volume Dr Wortis could persuade someone to produce a review of our hospital enquiries and their consequences modelled on Kenefick's interesting chapter on the Impact of Litigation in the U.S.

Of the three chapters devoted to clinical topics, Snyderman's on "Metabolism", for those of us who are not closely involved in biochemistry, is short and readable. The same comment cannot be made on the longest chapter in the book which is devoted to a description of "Cranium Bifidum/Encephalocele". Only the most dedicated reader would be able to cope with the style.

Curtiss' contribution on "Feral Children" has a timeless quality refuting a theory Bettelheim put forward in 1959—and in reality of little consequence in the day to day management of autistic children or adults.

The introduction by Dr Wortis on questionable