

overlooked by the stationmaster, and even referred to himself as the 'real Count Do-Nothing'. For many ambitious men, stopping work in order to take a vacation is associated with a sense of shame. The theme of conflict between passive wishes and aggressive ambition would seem to be a more meaningful comment concerning the latent dream thoughts, and of course more in line with our understanding of urethral eroticism.

The author has already put all students of psychoanalysis deeply in his debt for his work as editor of *The Index of Psychoanalytic Writings*. He has again been of service to all students of Freud's writings. The book reflects the scholarly, painstaking research which its writings required. It will become and remain a standard reference for all those who study dreams.

WALTER A. STEWART.

TRANSCULTURAL SYMPOSIUM

Mental Health Research in Asia and the Pacific.

Edited by WILLIAM CAUDILL and TSUNG-YI LIN. East-West Center Press, Honolulu. 1969. Pp. xv + 486. Price \$12.50.

'This volume contains the papers prepared for the Conference on Mental Health Research in Asia and the Pacific, held in Honolulu in the Spring of 1966. . . . The majority of the Asians invited were psychiatrists, the majority of the Westerners were social scientists in various disciplines. . . . In general the papers are focused on specific topics, and coverage of major areas of interest in mental health is uneven. . . . We believe that this volume will be of general professional interest and also will serve a useful purpose in the teaching of mental health research in medical schools and in departments devoted to the several social sciences in universities in Asia and the United States.' So the editors set out fairly the strengths and the weaknesses of this book. The absence of mention of European and, in particular, British, interest is not to be taken as a sign of the times. It is to Britain, not to the United States, that the majority of the countries about which papers are presented turn for inspiration in the development of mental health programmes. But Hawaii, in particular the East-West Center in Honolulu which financed and acted as host to the conference, has local views about East and West. The only counterbalance to the U.S. oriented chauvinism was the presence of—you guessed?—Professor Carstairs.

Burma, Ceylon, Communist China [*sic*]! India, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Polynesia ('On getting angry in the Society Islands'), Taiwan, Thailand and the United States (Hawaiian Division)

are the countries about which data are presented, and there is in addition an admirable short chapter by Yap of Hong Kong giving concise descriptions of the exotic syndromes. Most papers are useful because they are not cross-cultural comparisons but examinations of the distribution and forms of mental illness within cultures. Readers will therefore find the book much more helpful than many accounts of mental illness in Asia, Africa or elsewhere which cloud the issue by concentrating on relating the local data, inaptly, to findings in Europe or the United States. The only chapters wasted on this come at the end and are by the usual bunch of Western contributors to this topic. A notable exception is Lindemann's 'Mental Health Aspects of Rapid Social Change', which is excellent.

Throughout the book psychiatric syndromes seem to be of less interest than cultural factors. Because 'Westerners', anthropologists and psychiatrists are so interested in these they are in danger of foisting on to Asian psychiatrists a predilection for studying them instead of the major psychiatric problems, the organic and functional psychoses. The danger is more apparent than real. Most psychiatrists there know very well where their research effort should be directed. These cultural exercises are just put on for show to visitors. But as this meeting was the first of an annual five year programme we can hope that later conferences will put first things more foremost.

This book is confidently recommended to those interested in psychiatry in Asia—a wider readership than the editors suggest.

NEIL KESSEL.

WAR ON POVERTY

From Dependency to Dignity; Individual and Social Consequences of a Neighbourhood House. By LOUIS A. ZURCHER and ALVIN E. GREEN, with EDWARD JOHNSON and SAMUEL PATTON. Behavioural Publications, New York, N.Y., 1969. Pp. 100. Price \$2.95.

Vietnam is not the only war in which America is bitterly engaged. There is another being fought right in her very midst, one which like Vietnam she cannot win, and yet cannot afford to lose. This is the 'War on Poverty'. The headquarters and driving force of this most difficult campaign is the Office of Economic Opportunity, established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which in turn makes funds available to communities throughout the United States once their individual programmes have been approved.

The slim monograph under review gives an account