

instance, surgery and drugs) constitute the last three chapters of the book.

A reader unacquainted with this field could scarcely fail to be interested and impressed by the work Blakemore introduces here. His style is easy, informative and urbane. If he gives glimpses here and there rather than unrolling a grand theory of the relationship between mind and brain, it is because that accurately reflects the state of affairs.

One could ask whether this field of academic research has much to offer psychiatrists confronted daily with their fellow human beings in states of disablement or distress: people who are disturbing or disturbed. The answer is a tentative 'yes'. Here in the language of natural science is a beginning of an account of the mechanics of the processes that underlie our behaviour and mental life. For the thoughtful there are many connections to be made between this research, methods of psychiatric intervention, and people's ordinary and extraordinary experience.

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Psychiatric Problems in Ophthalmology. Edited by JEROME T. PEARLMAN, GEORGE L. ADAMS and SHERWIN H. SLOAN. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 1977. Pp 167. \$12.50.

As increasing interest is being taken in the psychiatric aspects of many clinical specialities, a book on this subject in relation to ophthalmology is most welcome. Sadly this multi-author volume fails to offer practical help.

Several of the chapters are reprints of papers already published. Some authors express their opinion on the basis of a few case reports, the management of which is quite out of date; for example double padding is now rarely used. In the chapter on 'Stress and Strabismus' the author quotes extensively from a paper by Rappoport which he regards as 'An excellent critical review'. An example from the review casts doubt on this opinion—'. . . External strabismus, esotropia (sic) . . . represents a regression to a very primitive ego state comparable to the quadruped sniffing the ground and turning the eyes up and out by using an archaic type of doubling binocular vision, or to even earlier aquatic ancestors who did not yet practice accommodation'.

In the one chapter in which the results of a series of patients are presented the authors admit that they could draw no conclusions from the data as there were too few patients for statistical analysis.

The psychiatric problems which would be of most interest to the practicing ophthalmologist are dealt

with very superficially or totally omitted. Acute glaucoma is one of the few ophthalmological disorders for which there is good evidence that psychological factors are sometimes of aetiological significance. Furthermore many drugs used in psychiatric illness, e.g. tricyclic antidepressants may precipitate an attack of acute closed angle glaucoma in susceptible patients. There is no mention of the subject in this book. Hysterical visual loss is the most important psychological problem that the ophthalmologist encounters; it is hardly dealt with at all.

The only redeeming feature of the book is the amusing first chapter, *The Eye and 'I'* which illustrates the place of the eye in history and art; I would recommend potential readers to stop at the end of it.

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Abnormal Behaviour: Perspectives in Conflict (2nd edition). By RICHARD H. PRICE. New York: Holt-Saunders. 1978. Pp 278. £4.25 (paperback).

In this book the author aims to describe abnormal behaviour as it is formulated in four different models, or as he prefers to say, as seen from four different perspectives. They are psychoanalysis, which is given much the most extended coverage; the illness model; the social perspective; and the humanistic perspective. There is no pretence at originality—the book is a teaching text—and the points are made by quotations from well known authors and simple discussion with the reader, followed by exercises at the end of each chapter.

The author evidently tries to present each viewpoint fairly, but he is selective and not always balanced. In discussing psychoanalysis and the illness model his chosen authors are not the obvious authorities and they are almost exclusively American. He is more at home and more convincing when discussing the sociologists' theories of deviance and labelling, and he then illustrates humanistic psychology, a strange mixture of Carl Rogers, Maslow, psychedelic states of consciousness, and Laing on schizophrenia as a growth experience.

The author writes clearly and the book can therefore be useful in teaching at nursing or undergraduate level if expounded by a teacher who knows the wider background from which the material comes.

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