

his requirements. It is a primer rather than a monograph. Its unsophisticated practical orientation and easy readability should recommend it to those with little time or no mind for consulting more ambitious texts.

E. STENGEL.

**Der Mongolismus. Erscheinungsbild und Herkunft.** (Mongolism. Manifestations and Origin). By KARL KÖNIG. Hippokrates-Verlag, Stuttgart. Pp. 278.

The author has for many years been one of the leading authorities in the care and management of mongoloid children and adolescents. He wants his book to be regarded not only as the product of his close study of mongolism, but as the outcome of his personal relationship to his mongol patients, for whom he obviously has a deep affection. He is convinced that mongolism appeared suddenly about a century ago and has spread in our civilization like an epidemic ever since. The book falls into three parts. The first deals with the manifestations and distribution of mongolism. The author agrees with those who regard acute or chronic exhaustion of the mother's reproductive capacity as an important aetiological factor. He believes that male mongols are more frequently born during summer than females, the majority of the latter being born in winter. He views the mongol as a primitive human species rather than the outcome of a maldevelopment, and he regards the recent discovery of the abnormal chromosomal structure as a confirmation of his theory. He attributes the exhaustion of the reproductive capacity to a reversal to the matriarchal hierarchy in the families concerned. Thus mongolism presents primarily a sociological rather than a medical problem. In the final chapter the author presents some valuable observations concerning care, education and treatment of mongols. The book will be read with interest by workers in this special field, even if they should not follow the author's theories, which he presents with commendable modesty.

E. STENGEL.

**Behavioral Analysis: Analysis of Clinical Observations of Behavior; as Applied to Mother-Newborn Relationships.** By DAVID M. LEVY. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A., 1958. Pp. xxxiv+370. Price 72s.

The attitude of the mother to her newborn child has been widely regarded as a factor of importance in determining the latter's immediate and perhaps future well-being. There has, however, been little attempt to measure objectively what her attitudes may be, by, for instance, observation of the mother's behaviour. Dr. Levy has long been interested in the subject of maternal attitudes and describes how the present investigation arose out of his study of mothers of patients seen in the practice of child psychiatry. Then, by trial and error, he selected a series of questions to form the basis of a "standardized" enquiry of maternal attitudes. Following from this, the present study, which involves the use of "scores" of maternal attitude was concerned with the observation of mothers and infants in the neonatal period. A trained observer stayed at the foot of the bed and recorded the behaviour of mother and baby, through a feeding or non-feeding time, for 2 or 3 periods, with special reference to the mother's response to the baby, nurse or others. A heterogeneous group of 19 mothers in 4 hospitals was chosen for the purpose. The observation records were then rendered into convenient units representing a numbered series of separate maternal responses and were rated by 4 "judges". Scores were compiled and compared with those obtained from standardized interviews of the mothers; a significant and positive correlation was found between the two. The mother's observed behaviour with her newborn baby could be predicted from an assessment of her maternal interests from questions concerning her past history.

The whole book is devoted to a very detailed description of the methodology used; the analysis of the observations made and a critical appraisal of their validity or otherwise. The readers will need to judge their value for himself. However, as Dr. Levy points out, such methods may be applicable in general to observations of relational behaviour, especially of type relationships of pairs, whether human or