

implanted with the authors' stereotactic methods. The illustrations are many, and the discussion, as well as the bibliography, rich. Passouant and Cadilhac discuss the problems of dream activity and narcolepsy from a study of 10 patients. Scherrer, Lille and Gaberssek present their studies on 15 volunteers of electrophysiological studies of sleep during the day while Fischgold and Safar mention the relevance of states of partial sleep and hypnagogic images, with some simplified diagrams. The last contribution to this part of the book is by Lairy, Goldstein and Guennoc on 'intermediary phases' of night sleep in mental illness, and presents their evidence of the relationship between the so-called 'slow sleep' and the phases with ocular movements in confusional and delusional states.

The fourth portion of the book consists of two chapters; the first by Ludo van Bogaert on oneiric activity and consciousness, the second by F. Michel on neuropsychological approach to oneirism. The fifth portion of the book on psychological aspects contains three chapters: Henri Ey discusses the phenomena of sleep-dreams in psychopathology; A. Bourguignon presents his views on the paradoxical phase, and on Freudian metapsychology; while Guyotat discusses dream activity and the relationship between doctor and patient.

The last ten pages of the text are written by Jouvett and Wertheimer as an attempt to reach some conclusions through a synthesis of the contributions of the various authors. This book, though containing a certain amount of material already published elsewhere, is well printed and reasonably well illustrated, and will interest a considerable proportion of psychiatrists, psychologists, and neurophysiologists who may be sufficiently acquainted with the complexities of the jargon, though not yet fully familiar with the large amount of literature on sleep, consciousness and dreams that has appeared over the last three decades.

G. PAMPIGLIONE.

AN UNDEPENDABLE SOURCE

The Roots of Individuality; Normal Patterns of Development in Infancy. By SYBILLE K. ESCALONA. London: Tavistock Publications Ltd. 1969. Pp. 547. Price £5.

Dr. Escalona's reputation amongst students of child behaviour rests on her attempts to make far more comprehensive and detailed accounts of individual behaviour than is usual in either a research or a clinical setting, and on the systematic theoretical framework which she has used in the analysis of this data.

Although she modestly rejects any claim to a comprehensive review of the field, perhaps the most useful section of this book comprises the introductory chapters in which she justifies her own attempt 'to relate the overt phenomena of behaviour to meaningful theoretical dimensions'. Her main concern seems to be to reconcile academic developmental psychology with what is described as 'the more sophisticated ego-psychoanalytic research', and in particular the work of Erikson and Spitz.

The research described in this book is about a sub-group from a cross-sectional study of 128 children between 4 and 32 weeks old, which was originally reported in 1953. 'In order to highlight individual differences among normal infants', and, one suspects in order to cope with the massive bulk of data that was collected, 32 subjects were selected for intensive study. The criterion of selection was a global rating of activity, and at each of eight age levels, separated by four week intervals, the two most active and the two most inactive were chosen. (Although the original sample was of 'normal' infants it appears that some subjects were excluded because their activity ratings fell outside the normal range.) With such a small total sample it is not surprising that the matching of subjects in the sub-sample is not very satisfactory.

Mother and baby made a 4 to 5 hour visit to the research unit, and were also observed in one home visit. The analysis described in the book is mainly based on detailed narrative accounts, ratings derived from these, and ratings made at the time of observation or interview. Presumably because of the numbers, the simplest analysis, that is the comparison of active *v.* inactive on the many rating scales, is made by lumping the different age levels into three groups; 4-12 week, 16-20 week, and 24-32 week olds. This has the merit of symmetry, but it is surprising that no evidence is presented to justify this grouping. Dr. Escalona is critical of the *quasi rigor* which she feels plagues psychological research, and though she has applied tests of significance to her data does not feel constrained to discuss only statistically significant findings.

The detailed findings are complex and intricate and cannot be summarized in a brief review; but some of the conclusions she draws are either superficial or susceptible of alternative explanations. Less complicated and time-consuming research has shown that active babies have low thresholds for stimulation; the supposed causal relationship between activity level and visual attention could be explained more economically by hypothesizing a single developmental factor responsible for both. In view of the apparent contradictions between the

early and late associations of activity it seems rash to generalize about developmental patterns on the basis of cross-sectional data only.

In a third section Dr. Escalona endeavours to describe and compare the way in which each individual adjusted to his unique pattern of experiences. The dilemma she is faced with is a familiar one in research, though it is more commonly encountered in longitudinal studies. The investigator feels that he knows the individual well enough to be able to predict, or at least characterize the individual's behaviour, yet when reduced to assimilable form his data support no such belief. Dr. Escalona's analysis leans heavily on Lewin's topological concepts, distinguishing successive boundaries of the self between environment and a hypothetical inner psychological region, like the old fashioned gobstopper. She explains apparent differences in responsiveness to external stimulation by supposed differences in the strength of the outer boundaries. It is not clear to this reviewer how these concepts facilitate a study of the interaction between the infant and his environment, since they postulate a static state when quite clearly there is a dynamic equilibrium. The ratings used for this section are not very well explained, and seem dangerously remote from the original data.

The last section describes each member of the study, using both the terminology of the previous section and a brief descriptive cameo. These are elegant clinical descriptions, though the implicit assumption in the phrasing of many that the information collected in such a transitory encounter can be confidently used to characterize a child in detail is surprising; many of the descriptions rely a great deal on case histories from the mother, and one wonders how much this information contaminated the observational ratings.

The book is marred by careless errors; with such a prolixity of data and tables it saps the reader's confidence to find that in the very first table, describing the characteristics of the sample, the crucial rating of activity level, frequently referred to in the text is omitted. In the descriptive section the activity level is given for each subject, but it is not clear how a level quoted to one decimal place was derived from a three point ordinal scale. One hopes too, that the description of 'non parametric' statistics given on pp. 86-7 is based on a misprint; non-parametric tests of significance do not assume either interval or ratio scales. She also asserts that non-parametric tests demand independent samples; Siegel's *Non-Parametric Statistics (1956)* to which she refers, gives seven different techniques for testing the significance of differences between related samples.

For the research worker the numerous methodological inadequacies make this an undependable source of information, and the clinician will find the glut of ratings and theory detract from the descriptions which might otherwise be stimulating. At this high price it is hard to recommend the book to anyone.

ANTHONY COSTELLO.

SUBMERGED BY UBIQUITOUS FREUDIAN THEORY

A Textbook of Psychosexual Disorders. By CLIFFORD ALLEN. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press. 1969. Pp. 478. Price 70s.

The form and content of this second edition has changed little since it originally emerged as 'Sexual Perversions and Abnormalities' in 1940. It was intended at that time that the psychoanalytic approach to sexual disorders which the author championed would offer an enthusiastic challenge to the 'nihilistic' sexual psychopathology of Hirschfeld and Kraft-Ebing.

Although it is now 30 years since the original first edition, the descriptive and treatment approach of the author remains entrenched in Freudian concepts. Systematic follow-up and evaluation of his long clinical experience in this field is not presented, and anecdotal case histories are offered to justify his position. This new edition includes references to the treatment of sexual disorder by behaviour therapy, but the enormous impact of this approach in recent years still remains submerged by ubiquitous Freudian theory. The overwhelming predominance of males over females presenting with sexual deviations in the clinic escapes emphasis by the author and highlights the neglect of consideration of socio-cultural attitudes as determinants of sexual behaviour. The use of the Freudian model for classifying sexual deviations leads to disorders of sexual orality preceding those due to so called genital fixation. To the uninitiated this order of presentation might give the impression that cannibalism, coprophagia and coprolalia were clinically more important than homosexuality, frigidity or impotence. The relative neglect of the neurology of sexual function, behavioural genetics and social aspects of sexual behaviour limit the use of the word 'text book' in a formal sense, whilst the publishers might consider adopting a more orthodox system of referencing in the text.

The book has now firmly established itself as an introduction to clinical problems of sexual deviation for D.P.M. students, social workers and lawyers. However, it is of limited value to the researcher in