

the enjoyment of the subject. As regards a better comprehension, as far as I know no one has yet compared the grades of those who have used this text with those who have not. Whether the book—which seems somewhat overpriced for a paperback—is worth the money and will genuinely provide a better understanding of basic social psychology is something the potential purchaser will have to decide for himself.

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**Advances in Psychological Assessment.** Vol. V. Edited by PAUL McREYNOLDS. London and San Francisco: Jossey Bass. 1981. Pp 564. £23.50.

This book consists of ten specially written chapters each on topics of current interest in psychological measurement. Unlike so many books on psychometric issues, this one is refreshingly free from statistical technicalities and thus will be of greater appeal to readers of this journal. In addition the topics which it covers have considerable psychiatric relevance: behaviour settings (very useful for the study of the effectiveness of different hospital regimes), stress, suicide, the Lunen-Nebraska-Neuropsychological Battery, group psychotherapies, the outcome of mental health treatment, together with two chapters on the Rorschach and Jung's extraversion-introversion.

The chapters are extremely useful as sources of reference for their subjects so that the book is valuable for this alone. The chapter on Jungian theory (singled out for comment only because your reviewer is most familiar with this field) is a very valuable survey of research done with the Myers-Briggs indicator. However, it is clearly the work of an enthusiast, as indeed are most of the chapters in this book. This means that those perhaps unfamiliar with the area may well be carried away by this enthusiasm and launch into research that could prove disappointing. On the other hand this enthusiasm gives the chapters life and makes them a pleasure to read. This book can be warmly recommended as a guide to research in the areas it deals with.

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**Dealing with Drink.** By IAN DAVIES and DUNCAN RAISTRICK. Foreword by SIR GEORGE YOUNG. London: BBC. 1981. Pp 256. £4.25.

*Dealing with Drink* was written to accompany a radio series of the same name and is designed mainly for those in the 'caring' professions who are likely to deal with problem drinkers. It is, though, eminently

suitable for people who have a more personal interest in drink problems, namely the relatives and friends of heavy drinkers.

It is an unusually wide-ranging book, opening with an historical account of our changing concepts of alcoholism, and dealing in turn with its medical and social consequences, treatment of drink problems and, not least, their prevention. Although there are a number of points that one could argue about, my only real quibble concerns the authors' use of a 'safety limit' of 100 grams of alcohol for daily drinking—although they do qualify this later on. Physical dependence is unusual below an intake of this order but there is now a considerable body of evidence indicating that complications such as liver disease and brain damage can occur at lower intakes than this, particularly in women. The book reflects the wide experience of the authors in dealing with alcohol-related problems. It is well written and attractively presented; I wish it well.

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**Handbook of Biological Psychiatry. Part IV. Brain Mechanisms and Abnormal Behaviour.** Edited by H. M. VAN PRAAG, M. H. LADER, O. J. RAFAELSEN and EDWARD J. SACHAR. New York: Marcel Dekker. Pp 963. Sfr. 250.

This is the fourth part of a six-part series covering the psychophysiology, genetics, chemistry and drug treatment of psychiatric syndromes. This volume consists of almost 1,000 pages so the fashionable title of handbook is misleading; it is more of a *Lehrbuch* than a *Handbuch*.

It is largely concerned with the biochemical origins of psychiatric syndromes and the latest findings on the mode of action of psychotropic drugs. There are comprehensive reviews of the biochemistry of schizophrenia (Crow) and affective disorder (van Praag) with excellent concise summaries of each section for the hasty reader. Over 100 pages are devoted to neuropeptides and opiate receptors but although innumerable hypotheses are generated there is little concrete clinical data to impress the practising clinical psychiatrist. This is not surprising; this is a rapidly developing field and the contributions to this volume were completed over two years ago.

Chapters on memory (Squire and Schlapfer), alcohol dependence (Littleton) and kindling (Post and Ballenger) will be of more interest to the physiologist and biochemist than the psychiatrist. He will be more at home with the detailed chapter on anorexia nervosa (Crisp) and the more completed jigsaw of Huntington's chorea (Bird and Iversen). The volume