

Reviews

Encyclopedie Medico-Chirurgicale. Editée sur Fascicules Mobiles. Psychiatrie. Publié sous la direction de HENRI EY. Secrétaire de Rédaction. H. DUCHÊNE. Paris, 1955. Tomes 3. Pp. 1800.

An encyclopaedia produced in the country of Bayle, Diderot and d'Alembert is bound to recall a great tradition; whether it aims to be "universal" or to deal only with one branch of knowledge, it will be expected to show a logical order of presentation, as well as clarity, learning, and discriminating judgment. These expectations are largely fulfilled in the three massive volumes on Psychiatry now published under the editorship of Dr. Henri Ey. The sponsors of the work are the small but intellectually active group of psychiatrists responsible since 1929 for *l'Evolution Psychiatrique*, a valuable journal chiefly concerned with psychopathology and psychotherapy. Dr. Ey has given this compilation by many hands the stamp of his own scholarly mind. There are 146 contributors, and although some familiar and prominent names are missing, it is clear that Dr. Ey has cast his net wide and shrewdly.

After a masterly historical introduction by the Editor, Volume One begins with chapters on medical psychology, physiology, morbid anatomy and statistics. Seventeen chapters on symptomatology, and six on diagnostic methods are followed by detailed clinical descriptions of acute psychotic disorders and epilepsy. Then come mental defect and the chronic psychoses; the varieties of schizophrenia are dealt with under this head. Volume Two contains a lengthy section on the neuroses and psychopathic personality, psychological aspects of physical disease, cerebrogenic syndromes, and mental disorders due to toxic, infective and endocrine disease; a final section is devoted to heredity, constitutional types, and the influences of the environment. Volume Three opens with a section on social psychiatry, in which the relevant aspects of religious life, immigration and military service are reviewed, and the requirements for giving expert reports set out. A full section on treatment deals first with psychotherapeutic methods, including those appropriate to children and adolescents; physical methods—insulin, E.C.T., leucotomy, continuous sleep, and a number of pharmacological procedures—make up the body of the volume, and there is a concluding section on the background of psychiatric practice, such as social welfare and legislation, occupational therapy, and private practice. A separate brochure, "La psychiatrie dans le monde", provides brief statements about the general position of psychiatry in eleven European and two South American countries, the U.S.S.R., and the United States. In order that the work should not become out-of-date, it is bound on the loose-leaf system which will permit additions and substitutions. This convenient device makes consecutive pagination impossible, however, so that in the alphabetical index the way of indicating where a reference is to be found is slightly more cumbersome than usual.

No one can read through an encyclopaedia. Even the most conscientious reviewer must base his opinion of the work on samples and a general impression, fortified by his previous knowledge of the abilities and standing of the contributors. Inevitably the articles will be uneven, the matter not always to the liking of an individual reader, the distribution of space arguable. But it would be captious to find fault with a bold enterprise of this kind because it fails to meet ideal requirements. A comparison of the work with the last major production of the same kind—Bumke's *Handbuch der Geisteskrankheiten*—shows how the emphasis in psychiatry has shifted, and how differently the same matter can be regarded in different countries and after twenty years. It is not only because of the different outlook of the two editors that the relative importance of morbid anatomy and clinical detail on the one hand and of psychopathology and treatment on the other have been reversed.

French psychiatry has an honourable history, but it cannot be denied that for a considerable part of the nineteenth and the twentieth century it went its own way,

illuminating and original, but with small regard for what was being thought and done elsewhere. Probably that is why in England few were familiar with the achievements of French psychiatrists since Magnan. Self-sufficient insularity is no longer a characteristic of French psychiatric writings, as may be recognized in the well-informed, wide-ranging articles in this encyclopaedia: and the conjunction of classical French views with those more prevalent in the world in 1955 results in an informative and still distinctive presentation which it is most profitable to consult. There are moreover many recent developments in France which have been too little regarded abroad: they receive due attention here.

The volumes are a fine example of French book production, and an evidence of the vitality of French psychiatry.

AUBREY LEWIS.

The Psychology of The Criminal Act and Punishment. By GREGORY ZILBOORG, M.D. Harcourt-Brace and Co., New York; The Hogarth Press Ltd., London.

The problem of capital crime and the reactions provoked by it in individuals and representatives of society is for us, in the English speaking world, a gravely topical problem. Individual and social conscience is uneasy, and but for the fear that very serious consequences might follow the suspension of capital punishment, there seems little doubt that abolition of the death sentence would be a cause embraced by many who are now indecisive. It is also recognized that court-trial is far from infallible, and that the statutory enquiry acts to save many who otherwise would be a burden on the social conscience.

To this general topic Zilboorg makes a contribution in his book *The Psychology of The Criminal Act and Punishment*. His aim is to increase the general unease felt regarding the social and juridical response to capital crime, by discussing the plethora of personal (and juridically irrelevant though effective) unconscious factors, which become involved, not only in the crime, but also in the conduct of the Attorneys, the Judge and the Jury.

The Isaac Ray Memorial Lectures, the second series of which form this monograph, are intended to contribute to the greater understanding between the legal and medical professions of America. The method which seems to be adopted by Dr. Zilboorg is that of demonstrating the presence of personal, unconscious factors suffusing what is generally taken to be an objective and impersonal or non-subjective system of attitudes and conduct, and thus discrediting the objectivity of the legal procedure. A psycho-analytically interpretive approach is used, and the material to which it is applied is of interest. Much of this is historical in the sense that the quotations employed are some 100 years old and much of it is English. No personal case studies are offered, nor does Dr. Zilboorg at any time claim to speak from direct personal experience of the prosecuting or defending attorneys or of the opportunities this might have offered him of investigating or observing the personal factors in the professional performance. To the clinician the generalizations put forward by Dr. Zilboorg in regard to these matters will not appear new, nor will they appear the more convincing in virtue of this presentation. To the lawyer, enlightenment might well come, though it is, in psycho-analytical thought, of doubtful value to offer generalized interpretations without adequate preparation of the recipient.

To the student and laymen open to conversion this monograph will prove stimulating and provocative. Dr. Zilboorg provides a brilliant essay on the differences and the implications of the differences, in the training of doctors and lawyers. This high spot of the lectures will provide much food for thought and his ingenious suggestion of allowing the law student to attend narco-analytic sessions, in order to learn of the existence of the deeper layers of personality structure will, I think, create some mis-giving, though there may perhaps be found a sufficiently courageous school of law and of medicine to undertake the experiment.

JONATHAN GOULD.