

In fact Freud's concept of *Nachträglichkeit*, translated by Strachey as 'deferred action', is held by Modell to be better construed as – the notion that memory is retranscribed in accordance with later experience.

In this view the therapeutic potential of psychoanalysis is recast from the old saw whereby id is rendered into ego. Instead a transformation of inner reality is seen to take place, in the medium of the psychoanalytic setting through symbolic actualisation. Time is retranscribed in order to overcome the 'tyranny of the past'.

Psychoanalysis is shot through with paradox, not least the tension between the correspondence theory of truth which suggests that objects can be known *as they actually are* and the coherence theory with its emphasis on objects *as they are constructed*. Modell's argument is an eloquent exposition of the problem.

STEPHEN WILSON, *Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Lecturer, University of Oxford*

**Dimensions of Psychoanalysis.** Edited by JOSEPH SANDLER. Madison: International Universities Press. 1990. 263 pp. \$35.00.

Psychiatrists who equate modern psychoanalysis with Freud's contribution alone are invited to a display of some of the harvest fruits of post-Freudian psychoanalysis. The volume mostly consists of the addresses of Visiting Professors of the Freud Memorial Chair at University College London, which celebrated its 25th birthday in 1990. It is introduced by Sandler, the editor and first long-term holder of the chair.

The addresses were to general audiences. However, non-specialists in the field may well wish to start with a lucid summary of Freud's early work by Gillespie, and then turn to Solnit's stimulating address on the significance of memory for attaining mastery and coping, and on preparing for the future with its potential for traumatic experiences. After Solnit, the reader could turn to Shafer's striking attempt to demystify theory and practice, namely by translating the analyst's life-history into 'action' language, and his or her unconscious defences into personal activity.

Those concerned with the scientific status of psychoanalysis will be interested in Bowlby's clear address on "Psychoanalysis as a natural science" and his robust theory of motivation which differs radically from that of Freud, and Pibram's attempts to provide a frame within which psychology, psychiatry and psychoanalysis can conform to the natural sciences.

Short dips into other lectures help to identify the book's challenging range. Green postulates a tertiary process of rationality, which bridges both primary and secondary processes of thought and logic, by a compromise which the analyst has to decipher. Segal reminds us that freedom of thought includes our knowledge of bad as well as good thoughts, a freedom we lose when

external authority makes us afraid to speak, or internal authority (the superego) afraid to think. Klauber exposes the role of truth and illusion in transference and in psychoanalytic cure. He views transference illusion or delusion not simply as false perception, but as the similarity with, and the confusion of, an old relationship with a new. Chassueget-Smirgel skilfully reveals perversion as man's universal temptation to go beyond the narrow limits of his condition, to discredit the power of universal laws and the Father-Creator. Lasch, a professor of history, challenges the Freudian left, and their assumption that the patriarchal family is the source of organised oppression.

Finally, Sandler warns us of the gaps and weaknesses in psychoanalytic (as in all) theories. He persuasively invites those who have not done so, to move from the older mechanistic psychoanalytic structure to a model centred on an internal object-relational structure, an inner-world of self interacting with valued people.

These are valuable contributions to a crucial and steadily evolving discipline and will excite a surge of interest in those wishing to update their knowledge of the past.

BRIAN LAKE, *Honorary Consultant Psychotherapist, St James's University Hospital, Leeds*

**International Perspectives in Schizophrenia – Biological, Social and Epidemiological Findings.** Edited by MALCOLM WELLER. London: Libbey. 1990. 227 pp. \$40.00.

This book has over 50 eminent contributors and provides a comprehensive and up-to-date review of schizophrenia. It is divided into five sections: the biology of schizophrenia, genetics, epidemiology, new directions in pharmacology and social aspects. Recent research findings and current reviews of the literature are provided in many chapters, although some of the summaries would have been of greater help if they had been more comprehensive.

The first section critically examines the time-honoured concept of schizophrenia as a functional disorder and includes contributions on organic 'schizophrenia-like' psychoses, memory in schizophrenia, developmental precursors of the adult disorder and the association between epilepsy and chronic psychosis. The significance of genetic factors in aetiology is reviewed in the second section along with molecular genetic research into schizophrenia and the search for psychophysiological changes (such as eye-tracking dysfunction) as biological markers for the condition.

The epidemiological section considers the interaction of environmental and endogenous factors in schizophrenia, and there is an overview of the Nithsdale schizophrenia surveys and the Friern Hospital studies which looks at the implications for community care

following the intended closure of a London psychiatric hospital. New directions in pharmacology includes excellent chapters on drug-induced akathisia and tardive dyskinesia and new possibilities for drug treatment of schizophrenia. I especially enjoyed the final section on social aspects, in particular Falloon's chapter on family management of schizophrenia.

In common with other multi-authored books, a wide variation in writing styles gives the book a rather disjointed and lumpy feel, and in terms of layout, it is not particularly 'user-friendly'. Some of these problems could have been overcome by more imaginative and skilful editing. Overall, I found it rather heavy going and pedestrian in style, very much a book for reference purposes rather than bed-time reading. It is most suited for the postgraduate with a substantial baseline knowledge of the subject, and I would hesitate to recommend it, for example, to candidates preparing for the Membership exam.

Apart from a few niggling gripes, it tackles the various issues concerning the aetiology, diagnosis and management of schizophrenia in a business-like but uninspiring fashion. Unfortunately, the most entertaining aspect of the book for me was that the review copy I received had been produced with its cover on upside down and back to front!

ROBERT I. COHEN, *Consultant Psychiatrist in Adult Mental Illness, Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge, Middlesex*

**Reconstructing Schizophrenia.** Edited by RICHARD P. BENTALL. London: Routledge. 1990. 308 pp. £35.00.

After 100 years of research, the nature of schizophrenia remains as mysterious as ever. Since Bentall's preface promises a new approach to the problem, jaded students of schizophrenia will take up this book with hope. They will be disappointed. There is an echo of the swashbuckling '60s suggestion that schizophrenia is a myth used by wicked psychiatrists to control social undesirables (Marshall, Pilgrim). The echo is faint, because, after 'rigorous scrutiny', most of the contributors agree that there is a genetic basis for the disorder and that there is a place for the use of neuroleptic drugs. Given this admission, attacks on the biological approach to schizophrenia lose much of their force. Rather than saying that there is no biological basis for schizophrenia, the argument is that the biological approach has been exaggerated and that other factors have not been sufficiently examined. Schizophrenia research, they complain, has been too much dominated by psychiatry and the 'medical model'.

Many contributors seem to believe that accepting a biological basis implies that only biological treatments are useful. This is obviously not the case. Barham & Hayward, and Slade & Tarrier show how social and

psychological factors can be used to help schizophrenic patients. Of course, this does not reveal anything about the relevance of these factors to the fundamental nature of the disorder. Slade gets closer to fundamentals by relating his approaches to treatment to speculations about the cognitive basis of various symptoms. Ironically, he uses for this purpose the impeccably psychiatric framework developed by Peter Liddle.

The other critique presented in this book concerns the existence of the syndrome 'schizophrenia'. Boyle, Jackson & Bentall argue that the evidence for a unitary syndrome is very weak. Few would disagree with this. New diagnostic schemes and new subgroupings are continually being proposed and many psychiatrists are currently questioning Kraepelin's original formulation. The arguments will continue until the aetiology is fully unravelled. As an alternative to discrete syndromes, Venables & Claridge propose a dimensional approach. Bentall proposes that psychological mechanisms should be sought that relate to specific symptoms, rather than to 'schizophrenia', and presents some of his own work in this direction.

This book brings together critiques of, and approaches to, research on schizophrenia which have appeared before and are not going to cause a revolution. The student of schizophrenia will continue to feel jaded.

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**Art Therapy in Practice.** Edited by MARIAN LIEBERMANN. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 1990. 191 pp. £24.50 (hb), £9.95 (pb).

The contributors to this volume all work in the same geographical region and between them cover a wide variety of client groups; acute and long-term psychiatric patients, psychogeriatric patients, people with psychiatric problems with learning difficulties, children with psychological problems, offenders in the community and homeless people.

The variety of their clients is matched by the variety of ways in which they interpret the practice of art therapy. One could almost say that the methodology can stretch from therapy in which art forms the focus of the relationship either with the therapist or the group, to that in which the art itself becomes the therapy which is best left without the intervention of the therapist.

The most important message which is conveyed in this excellent collection lies in its demonstration of the way in which the art therapists have managed to extend their skills in the service of such a wide variety of human distress. It demonstrates the adventurous nature of art therapy which has refused to enclose itself into a rigid pattern of practice but has demonstrated the way in which it can be of value in the most unexpected situations.

It heralds a call to all art therapists to continue to accept any challenge while at the same time may help