

thinking and which are variously designated according to the particular school.

Professor J. Zutt attempts to establish an anthropological basis for psychiatry, in which he seeks to take the totality of the mentally ill individual into account, to elucidate the possible meaningfulness of his symptoms in a general anthropological context. Psychotic symptoms thereby cease to be regarded as useless disease products. The clinical applications of this particular approach do not, however, seem from the clinical examples furnished, notably a case of paranoid illness which he reports, to reveal any fresh or fruitful insights.

Dr. Roland Kuhn devotes a good deal of space in his chapter to a discussion of Binswanger's existential analysis (*Daseinsanalyse*), and the work of other similarly orientated writers is mentioned. It is difficult, especially for the foreigner, to assess the value of this work, written as much of it is, in a cumbersome and rebarbative terminology. The suspicion of esotericism is inevitably strong and it is hard, even when the obscurity of the language is to some extent penetrated, to detect anything really new. The contamination of science with philosophy seems, moreover, likely to lead to confusion and woolly thinking.

Two chapters follow on philosophical fundamental problems of psychiatry, the first by Dr. Maurice Natanson, the second by Dr. Erwin Straus.

This book leaves the reviewer with some questions in his mind. Does this volume represent a welcome breaking down of national barriers, opening windows for the German reader on the rest of the psychiatric world, largely ignored by German psychiatrists in the past, or does it represent a decline in German psychiatry from its former high estate? Are there not enough psychiatrists of eminence now in Germany to have made a distinctive national contribution? Is it perhaps evidence of a lack of belief in themselves, or is it that psychiatry is now well on the way to becoming internationalized? If mainly for German readers why are some of the articles written in other languages? If for an international public the appeal must be inevitably limited since the bulk of the work is in German, which perhaps only a minority of psychiatrists read. Certainly the book differs radically from German psychiatric publications of, say, thirty years ago, and the loss of this national quality seems something to regret. The considerable pre-occupation with psycho-analysis and speculative thinking is alien to the older German psychiatric tradition. A reviewer of the English translation of a famous German psychiatric classic remarked recently that that publication showed clearly that psychiatry was still living on the capital laid down by a few outstanding

men at the beginning of this century. The volume here under review perhaps offers some indirect confirmation of that statement. Nevertheless, accepting this volume as it is, it is impossible to do other than praise it. It is characterized by all the old German virtues of thoroughness, accuracy and detailed documentation and it may be questioned whether any other country could have produced a work of this character. It must be added to the catalogue of any psychiatric library with any pretensions to adequacy.

E. W. ANDERSON.

Psychological Medicine (A Short Introduction to Psychiatry). By DESMOND CURRAN and MAURICE PARTRIDGE. Fifth Edition. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Limited. Pp. viii+427. 1963. Price 30s.

The development of this introductory textbook from its earlier editions faithfully reflects that of Psychiatry in the same period. Its size has almost doubled in the post-war years without any loss of lucidity. The authors always give reasons when they differ from what might be generally taught—for instance, in the classification they have adopted. Students will find this a stimulus to further discussion.

Those who turn to this book for an account of modern psychiatric treatment will not be disappointed. Both physical and psychological methods are well described. The dosage of drugs, their toxic effects, and the authors' preferences are indicated.

As this textbook is the product of those working in the psychiatric department of a general hospital, fuller descriptions might have been included to help physicians in the diagnosis of psychiatric illnesses when the presenting symptomatology is couched in somatic terms. Further, only two pages are devoted to an account of psychosomatic medicine. Although it is conceded that the list of disorders mentioned comprises "conditions in which emotional factors play an important, and sometimes predominant part in the production of somatic symptoms" (p. 334), the authors make no plea for the co-operation of psychiatrists in treatment. If psychiatry is an integral part of medicine, as the authors indicate, then the psychiatrist might have been included as a member of the therapeutic team. A fuller discussion of the relevance of psychiatry to surgery would have been helpful.

This book remains one of the best introductions to psychiatry, and will be widely read and appreciated for its common sense and conservative approach. It is hoped that in subsequent editions, as psychiatry moves even closer to general medicine, more space

will be found for reference to the somatic concomitants of emotional stress in what the authors call "peripheral psychiatry".

J. G. GIBSON.

Aspects of Psychiatric Research. Edited by D. RICHTER, M. J. TANNER, LORD TAYLOR and O. L. ZANGWILL. London: Oxford University Press. Pp. 439. 1962. Price £3 3s.

This excellent book had its origin in discussions in the Research Committee of the Mental Health Research Fund. It deals with progress in psychiatric research during the ten-year period following publication of the Fund's earlier volume entitled *Prospects of Psychiatric Research* edited by J. M. Tanner, 1953, which was based on a conference held at Oxford in 1952 on problems of psychiatric research.

The book ranges in scope from social psychology and epidemiology to forensic and industrial psychiatry, treatment practice in different countries, mental deficiency, epilepsy, neuropharmacology, neurophysiological and biochemical aspects of mental disorders, childhood, bereavement and ethology.

Each chapter is excellent. Special mention must be made of Hare's balanced survey of epidemiological psychiatry and of three chapters on aspects of mental subnormality by Tizard, dealing with treatment, H. Harmer on biochemical errors and a comprehensive and lucid account of chromosome anomalies by Polani. The relevance of animal studies in human neurotic disorders is interestingly and critically presented by Hindle. The effect of loss of mother figure between age 6 months and 6 years is ably described by Bowlby, who points out the value, as a research method in psychiatry, of identifying an event in childhood that is probably psychogenic and can be defined clearly, and the effects of which on the developing child can be systematically studied by direct observation.

An excellent account of the value of the electroencephalogram in relation to cerebral functioning is given by Bates and there is a most valuable critical survey of the possible role of acetyl choline, histamine, catechol amines and gamma aminobutyric acid in nervous system functioning, pointing out areas in which active research is needed to fill gaps in our knowledge. An excellent appraisal of the present state of knowledge on biochemical factors in schizophrenia is provided by Smythies.

The entire production is of high standard and it is particularly gratifying to record the notable contribution made by British research to psychiatry during the period under review.

This book is indispensable for all engaged in the

practice of psychiatry and others who wish to bring up to date their knowledge of the trends and achievements of recent research in psychiatry.

LINFORD REES.

Recent Advances in Biological Psychiatry.

Vol. IV. Edited by JOSEPH WORTIS. New York:

Plenum Press Inc. Pp. 385. 1962. Price \$13.50.

Symposia and reports of meetings range from poor to very good, but even the best usually contain one or two contributions which are of low standard. This volume is no exception to the general rule, even though its standard is high. The 31 chapters cover a Symposium on Ethology, Drugs and Somatic Approaches in Psychiatry, Psychopharmacological Research, Miscellaneous Studies and a Joint Meeting of the Pavlovian Society and Society of Biological Psychiatry. It is greatly to be regretted that this last must be regarded as the poorest section of this volume. For example, Chapter 2 on Pavlovianism and Clinical Psychiatry could have been written more or less as it is, about 30 years ago. Chapter 3 is one of those papers which succeed in saying nothing despite an enormous number of words. The following is a sample of one of its shorter sentences: "The bodily self-occupying structured physical space and the environment as a physical space filled with objects and events unfolding in a kaleidoscope of time as a dimension are cardinal parameters of objective reality of the exact sciences."

The symposium on Ethology is of interest and worth reading. For those who are interested in psychiatric treatment by drugs, the work and opinions of the French school are of the greatest importance. They are clearly summarized in the paper by Jean Delay. Chapter 16 illustrates the sort of useful biochemical research that is being done on changes due to E.C.T. and gives a lead for future work.

The clinical studies cover a wide range, but Chapter 19 on the differential response of schizophrenics and depressives to Sodium Amytal describes some fascinating work of profound importance.

The section on Psychopharmacological Research has some very interesting papers, but Chapter 27 on the theoretical approach to the nature of depression undoubtedly gives most food for thought.

How one chooses what is good or bad in a series of papers depends to some extent on one's personal interests, but there can be no doubt that this book contains much that will interest all general psychiatrists, will give them food for thought and ideas for research.

MAX HAMILTON.