

This book is a useful introduction to an important problem, which, because of the insight it gives into the role of speech in personality structure, social relationships and emotional difficulties, concerns psychiatrists as much as it does teachers.

LORNA WING.

Children of Time and Space, of Action and Impulse. By RUDOLF EKSTEIN. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1966. Pp. 466. Price \$8.75.

The author of this book, a psychoanalyst and clinical psychologist, is Director of a Project on Childhood Psychosis at the Reiss-Davis Child Study Centre, Los Angeles, California. The subject matter is derived from out-patient work at that Centre and also from previous investigations at the Southard Residential School for disturbed children. In collaboration with, and with contributions by, psychoanalytically orientated psychiatrists, psychologists social workers and teachers, a remarkably lucid portrayal of the investigation and treatment of psychotic and borderline psychotic children and adolescents has been achieved. Much of the subject matter has appeared previously in the form of separate publications, the purpose of the book being to collect together such work for its appraisal in the light of other literature relevant to this difficult and somewhat controversial subject. To quote Dr. Ekstein: "We must all admit that we are hardly more than beginners. We work by trial and error. Each case for us is a new scientific experiment."

The work does not pretend to be a textbook on psychoanalysis as related to the forms of psychosis which occur before adulthood. It is a group of case histories, critically examined, which has been collected over a period of twenty years, during which time a programme of training of therapists in the techniques relevant to such problems has been devised and evaluated. It is refreshing to see that the author and his co-workers have at no time dealt in positive but unsupported assertions: they accept that such children are poor treatment risks. There are few pointers to indicate that success is to be achieved in any individual child. It is accepted that many years may be spent striving for an unachievable goal. No "fixed therapeutic prescription" is offered, the stimulus for continued interest being found in the following of each case to its eventual conclusion whether or not it be successful.

In each chapter of this book one discovers fascinating new aspects of situational responses previously discussed. In some instances, in view of the period of time covered, one is able to see the successful outcome

of therapy as shown by relatively good emotional adjustment in adult life.

The difficulties of accurate initial diagnosis are discussed, "borderline" being a term used to describe severe neurotic disorder simulating a true psychosis. The problem of counter-transference as seen in the residential situation is considered critically, and a useful section on the nature of the interpretative process is included.

The book is attractively written and includes a reference list of some 200 items. It is anticipated that, as a valuable contribution to child psychotherapy, it will promote discussion and thereby further advancement in this field of research. To quote the author: "We like to communicate our findings . . . we hope that they will inspire communication which will lead toward the improvement of our training methods."

G. W. FISHER.

Griefs and Discontents. By GREGORY ROCHLIN. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1965. Pp. 403. Price £3 5s. od.

This book is a psychoanalytical study of childhood and its problems. The author has brought together a series of earlier medical lectures and modified them into a coherent whole. It seems as if he is aiming his book at a much wider public than that of the exclusively practising psychoanalyst. Anyone with a simple knowledge of Freudian theory should be able to comprehend the book, and it should be of considerable value to many English psychiatrists who themselves may not even practise psychotherapy.

The author is an orthodox Freudian who claims to owe a great deal to the teachings and the writings of Helene Deutsch and Ives Hendrick. He rejects the teaching of Mrs. Klein, and uses the older model of ego psychology in terms of the pressures of super-ego and id, as is the usual practice in America. The language of the book has all the difficulties (or advantages) of standard American, which to the English reader means heavy and laboured reading. The bibliography is in the form of "references" at the end of each chapter, which makes for clumsiness in checking references from the text. The index is adequately done and the book is well produced.

He sets out to demonstrate that our early griefs and discontents, and our reactions to them, have a life-long effect on the psychology of our everyday life. His hypothesis is that these disappointments and losses generate dynamic force with a powerful impetus which can effect either a pathological state or a very high achievement. This latter result is too often overlooked. Development of character and appeasement of original loss by substitution of success in