

emphasis on productivity and more on creativity. Here as in many other sections, the book has an important point to make and makes it very well.

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Hypnosis and Behaviour Modification: Imagery Conditioning. By WILLIAM S. KROGER. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1977. Pp 406. £16.80.

This book introduces the topic in a clear and readable way, by a series of concise definitions and clear expositions of major theoretical views. These are followed by helpful sections on the preparation of the subject for hypnosis and on the variety of hypnotic techniques. The discussion broadens into related procedures such as autogenic training and biofeedback and there is a useful discussion of autohypnosis.

Unfortunately the work loses much of its pristine clarity as it continues and the extensive sections on clinical applications become muddled and repetitive. The author would have been better advised to exclude this entire section from the work since he has covered the matter in a second book which appeared since the first edition of the present work.

Most of the sections are well referenced which is of advantage to the serious student and researcher.

Hypnosis in Practice: Its Application in Stress and Disease. By H. LAWRENCE SHAW. London: Baillière Tindall. 1977. Pp 138. £2.75 (limp-back).

This small book, produced in limp cover, is intended to be an introductory work on the topic for interested practitioners. It has the merit of brevity, there are some useful references and on the whole the topic is dealt with clearly.

However, I would not be able to recommend it to my own students, for the emphasis given to induction techniques is too heavily weighted with active instructions instead of passive suggestions. To inform a subject attempting to enter a hypnotic trance that he must raise his right index finger when he has a clear mental image of some scene clearly militates against the easy passage into the hypnotic state. The better alternative is a suggestion that a hand or finger will twitch or move when such a scene is visualized.

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Artificial Intelligence and Natural Man. By MARGARET BODEN. Hassocks, Sussex: Harvester Press. 1977. Pp 537. £13.50 (cloth), £4.95 (paper).

Enthusiastic testimonials on the dust-cover of a book may tend to make a reviewer feel *de trop*. However, it should be said that in this case at least the enthusiasm is fully warranted, and that this is indeed a book which merits very wide circulation.

Dr Boden defines artificial intelligence as the use of computer programs and programming techniques to cast light on the principles of intelligence in general and human thought in particular. Thus the book's central concern is with questions usually considered in the context of psychology and cognate disciplines, concerning for instance language, creativity and personality. The coverage and discussion of current and previous work is thorough and illuminating. It is also readily assimilable, partly because of the author's limpid, jargon-free prose, partly because of the book's organization. No previous knowledge of computing is assumed. Instead, after a short introduction, two chapters are devoted to outlining a particular computer program, Colby's simulation of a neurotic process, and to discussion of the program's strengths and weaknesses. The following chapters adopt the same strategy of introducing general and abstract discussion via the description of particular programs. The consequence is that the book is stimulating and informative for the specialist and non-specialist alike.

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Meaning and Void: Inner Experience and the Incentives in People's Lives. By ERIC KLINGER. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1977. Pp 364. \$16.50.

It can be daunting to review a 400-page book at the end of which no less than 600 references are given: the more so if the topics they refer to take one from learning theory to clinical psychiatry passing through social psychology, drug addiction, suicide and psychotherapy.

Professor Klinger's avowed intention is to write a 'book about people's sense that their lives are meaningful, about the conditions under which people feel that way and about the conditions that erode that feeling' (p 3). This is plain enough. Indeed in this quotation the general structure of the book is laid out.

The author starts by discussing the notion of meaning. Soon, however, it becomes clear that meaning is considered by him as tantamount to 'incentive'. This term, central to his whole argument,