

One could ask why the authors have confined their discussion to visual imagery. Though the term is admittedly most frequently used in this context, the role of tactual, kinaesthetic and auditory imagery, as well as that of taste and smell, may also be worth investigating. One question might be whether the notion of a conceptual rather than a perceptual basis for imagery can be extended to other than the visual modality.

BEATE HERMELIN.

The Adopted Child. By JOSEPH G. ANSFIELD. Charles C. Thomas. Springfield, Illinois. 1971. Pp. 56. Price \$5.75.

This is a book of five chapters covering most aspects of adoption from the points of view of the would-be adoptive parents, the natural parents, and the adopted child both as young and as an adolescent. The author is a practising psychiatrist in Chicago, who writes that he was prompted to produce this book because of the laments made to him, in the course of his work, by parents of adopted children. 'If we had it to do all over again, we would never have told our child that he was adopted.'

This book is an expression of opinion. In his identification with the adoptive parents, Dr. Ansfield states his strong belief that adopted children should not be told of their adoption. He gives no bibliography, and indeed states that to his knowledge no meaningful study has been done on the subject. Nor does he give any hint that he is to study a control group; he does not even compare his cases of private adoption with those done through an agency. Further, Dr. Ansfield does not make any suggestion that there could be adverse psychological factors working in the adoptive parents, which made for the difficulties, attributed uncritically, to the fact that the child knew of his adoption.

It is difficult for a British psychiatrist to appreciate the attitude and the intensity of feeling which Dr. Ansfield displays.

STEPHANIE M. LEESE.

Basic Child Psychiatry. By PHILIP BARKER. Staples Press. London. 1971. Pp. 223. Price £1.50.

Until recently, books in English on child psychiatry have tended to come from across the Atlantic, but recently, valuable contributions in this area have been appearing from the pens of English writers. A notable addition to this list is Philip Barker's *Basic Child Psychiatry*, the title giving a succinct impression of the contents. It fills a gap

of which those involved in teaching undergraduates in medicine, social work and psychology and student nurses have been keenly aware. The overall approach is eclectic and the case histories included are relevant and commendably few. The first chapter presents a brief review of the child's psychological development; perhaps in a future edition this section could be extended with benefit as the medical undergraduate is more likely to search out references on a rare pathological syndrome than on normality. Likewise, of the references provided at the end of each chapter, those commended for further reading on psychological development are limited. Is it a sign of the times that emotional deprivation is relegated to two pages in a chapter entitled 'Other Syndromes' where it is considered together with mixed neurotic and conduct disorders, elective mutism, anorexia nervosa, problems of migrants, tics and clumsy children? It is likely that in the recent past this topic would have merited an entire chapter.

Rutter's (1) valuable contribution 'Classification and Categorization in Child Psychiatry' is used as a basis of the classification in this book, and is probably more appropriate for the needs of the readers envisaged than the triaxial classification which in any case would only just have been available when the book was going to press.

Essentially, a text of this kind has to be oversimplified, and more sophisticated readers may quibble over the finer points: for example the place of insulin in the modern treatment of anorexia nervosa; the failure to suggest that anaemia should be considered when investigating the child with pica; possibly more attention should be paid to assessment of the suicidal adolescent; but the overall presentation of the subject is sound and can be recommended to those seeking an elementary knowledge of child psychiatry.

A few printer's errors could be rectified in a further edition, for example the spelling of amitriptyline on page 101, of tuberosclerosis on page 67 and the inversion of Hale Shirley's name in the selected list of books and journals.

EDNA M. IRWIN.

REFERENCE

1. RUTTER, M. (1965). *Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 6, 71-83.

Voyage Through Childhood into the Adult World. A Description of Child Development. By EVA A. FROMMER. Oxford: Pergamon Press. Pp. 108. Price £1.75 hard cover; £1.25 paperback.