

occurs in a sufficient number of the articles to reduce the value of the book. The editor could have been more ruthless, too, with the diagrams, as some of them are confusingly complex: for example, in the article on the EEG findings in patients with renal insufficiency, 19 different variables are shown in one figure.

The conclusions of the Conference, in the final chapters, that the concepts of idiopathic epilepsy should now be discarded, are probably not as universally accepted as the editors would have us believe, but they do without doubt represent the views of the 'Marseilles school of epilepsy'. This book is not of general psychiatric interest, but it could be a useful reference work for neurophysiologists or those clinicians with a physiological bias who are dealing mainly with epilepsy.

P. FENWICK.

A CONCISE WORKING MANUAL

U.C.H. Notes on Psychiatry. Edited by R. F. TREGOLD and H. H. WOLFF. Gerald Duckworth. 1970. Pp. 293. Price 50s

University College Hospital's Department of Psychiatry, in common with many other similar teaching institutions, clearly follows the practice of distributing mimeographed notes or 'broadsheets' to their students to supplement and consolidate material presented in lectures. It is inevitable that such notesheets should eventually be collected and brought together in published form. This process has produced some excellent manuals in other medical subjects, and the present manual of psychiatric notes is a welcome addition to this literature.

These notes are excellently presented. The authors have managed to preserve conciseness without making the 'notes' format too obvious, and at the same time have managed not to sacrifice style for brevity, hence the final outcome is a nicely-presented and easily-readable textbook. One might have assumed, perhaps, that the multiple authorship of the original notes would have been reflected to some extent in the text of the book; the fact that this is nowhere apparent is a tribute to the editors, whose task it was to convert a heterogeneous collection of notes into a series of 'uniform' chapters.

It is a truly concise working manual of psychiatry. Every relevant topic is considered, with first-class chapters on Examination of the Patient and on Psychodynamics. There are, too, the usual topics of Psychiatric Syndromes, Methods of Treatment, and Psychosomatic Conditions. A descriptive summary of the psychiatric services in Britain, and of ethical problems related to psychiatry (e.g. termina-

tion of pregnancy and euthanasia) are also included.

This book will be of great value to students of medicine and psychiatry, and would form a valuable psychiatric manual for the general practitioner. I am certain it will quickly establish itself as a standard text.

T. R. WILSON.

COMING OF AGE

Difficulties in the Path of Psychoanalysis. By ANNA FREUD. New York: International Universities Press. 1969. Pp. 83. Price \$4.00.

This little book marks the appearance in print of the lecture delivered by Anna Freud in New York City on 16 April 1968. It was the 18th Freud Anniversary Lecture sponsored by the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.

I had the good fortune to attend this meeting at which Anna Freud presented her paper in her usual charming and gracious manner. What impressed me, apart from the content of the lecture, was the size of the audience and the enthusiastic reaction to her remarks. When one considers the small number of people who attended Freud's early lectures in Vienna, one could not help but be struck by the capacity attendance that came to hear Anna Freud. I was struck too by the large number of young people, as well as the many senior analysts, in the audience. It was vivid testimony that psychoanalysis has indeed come of age.

Anna Freud divides her considerations of the difficulties to which psychoanalysis is exposed today under three general headings: those coming from the public; those from the patients; and those from the psychoanalysts themselves.

Under the first heading she compares the widespread acceptance of psychoanalysis today with the ridicule to which it was exposed in the early days of its existence. She indicates, however, that there are still many challenges which psychoanalysis must meet today. One difficulty results from the lessening of the appeal of analysis for today's young people, who feel that 'psychoanalysis is now in the hands of the parent generation and as such suspect.'

In the second part of her book she turns to a consideration of the difficulties coming from the patients.

She is very critical of the trend toward the analysis of the earliest stages of the individual's development. She also raises the controversial point about the unique role of transference in the psychoanalytic process to the exclusion of other avenues of communication, specifically whether transference really has the power to transport the patient back as far as the beginning of life. She raises the serious question

whether it is not an 'almost magical expectation to have the patient in analysis change back into the prepsychological, undifferentiated, and unstructured state, in which no divisions exist between body and mind or self and object' (pp. 40-41). Although some analysts have stressed the parallels between the analyst-patient relationship and the mother-infant relationship, she emphasizes the differences. Among the theoretical assumptions implied in extending the use of transference to these early pre-verbal states is the assumption that whatever is acquired is reversible. Anna Freud feels that this is by no means proved.

In the third part of her book, Anna Freud discusses in detail the problems besetting analysts themselves. Of particular importance is the matter of creativity in the profession. Here she emphasizes that 'the analysts' task is not to create, i.e. to invent anything, but to observe, to explore, to understand, and to explain' (p. 48). She goes on to discuss that the *sine qua non* of psychoanalytic thinking essentially should be metapsychological, that every clinical fact should be approached (1) *genetically* as to its origin; (2) *dynamically* as to the interplay of forces of which it is a result; (3) *economically* with regard to its energy charge; (4) *topographically* (later *structurally*) concerning its localization within the mental apparatus; and last (5) *adaptively*. She states that although dynamic considerations have to a great extent achieved widespread acceptance, most of the progress has been along genetic lines. She feels it essential that the other aspects of metapsychology regain their former status, and that further progress in psychoanalysis will ultimately be along these lines.

Anna Freud's highly condensed book is important in that she wisely introduces a cautious warning concerning the scientific validity of some of the recent trends in psychoanalysis. Her re-emphasis of the merits of a total metapsychological approach point an important direction for psychoanalytic investigation to take in the future.

Difficulties in the Path of Psychoanalysis is a most important book worthy of careful and meticulous study.

ALEXANDER GRINSTEIN, M.D.

OXFORD BRAIN INJURY STUDIES

Missile Wounds of the Brain; A Study of Psychological Deficits. By FREDA NEWCOMBE. Oxford University Press (Oxford Neurological Monographs). 1969. Pp. 145, Price 42s.

Neuropsychology would at first sight appear to have a relatively straightforward task in exploring the relationships between focal lesions of the brain and

disturbances of cognitive function. Cognitive processes can be measured more reliably than most other mental functions, and a great number of psychometric tests have been evolved and standardized for such purposes. In practice, however, the situation is far from simple. This monograph from the Department of Neurology of the United Oxford Hospitals is an excellent example both of the scrupulous care which is necessary and of the complexities which emerge.

Beginning in the last century with observations on dysphasia, the search to relate focal psychological deficits to focal brain lesions has extended through more detailed particularization of speech functions, arithmetical, constructional, and visuospatial functions. In this British psychologists have played an important part. Disputes have involved the validity of the areas of cognitive function demarcated for study, their meaning in relation to other accompanying defects, the relevance of testing procedures, and the reliability with which naturally occurring brain lesions may be regarded as circumscribed and grouped according to location. Questions of sampling and of the special selection of populations under investigation have produced further difficulties, since inevitably large numbers of patients are required if universal relationships are to be demonstrated.

Dr. Newcombe's study has been conceived with all of these difficulties in mind. She has taken as subjects 153 men who suffered focal brain injuries in World War II and has examined them some twenty or more years later. The population, therefore, is almost unique, and could not be better suited to demonstrate the enduring effects of non-progressive focal brain lesions. The men were invited to return to Oxford and submit to many hours of psychological examination carried out personally by the author. This they did willingly, we are told even cheerfully! The result is a very great deal of information, clearly set out, well argued and intelligently compared with the findings of others. We obtain a clear demonstration of persistent selective deficits in language, visual perception and spatial orientation, in the absence of general impairment on standard tests of intelligence. We also find a firm body of evidence to add to our growing understanding of hemispheric asymmetry where such deficits are concerned. Differences within the hemispheres are less clearly established, but here also some interesting results are obtained.

The book will be read avidly by researchers in similar fields. For the psychiatrist it is a fascinating if rather daunting piece of work. It shows yet again that accuracy of measurement is but the first step in attempts to arrive at an understanding of brain-behaviour relationships.

W. A. LISHMAN.