

attempts to explore, understand and control its environment. Out of this early generalized matrix of intrinsically determined behaviour, adult forms differentiate, leading, for example, to one person's total absorption in a chess problem while the hunger drive comes, is unheeded and diminishes. This book provides a comprehensive, learned and readable account of its subject. Other problems considered include how intrinsic motivation is affected by extrinsic rewards and controls; and an interesting, psychiatrically relevant, section on how people attribute motivation to each other. Cognitive psychology forms a bridge between the psychology of behaviour and the psychology of experience. Its distinguished theoreticians include Berlyne, Bruner and Piaget. For psychiatrists with cross-disciplinary interests, this book can be recommended.

SIDNEY CROWN

LANGUAGE

Life Sentences. Aspects of the Social Role of Language. Edited by R. HARRE. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. 1976. Pp xv+178. Index 4 pp. Price £5.50, £2.25 (paperback).

The title of this collection of articles, although eye-catching, is misleading even when translated by the editor into 'potent words and powerful sentences' in the context of liturgical and dramaturgical models of society. The subtitle, although less arresting, is a clearer indicator of contents, which range from the early development of self-concept to the fascinating analysis of an untranslatable Japanese word, including on the way the 'labelling' of psychiatric patients or convicted criminals, and children's use of language to indicate possession. There are articles by Bruner, Argyle, Goffman and the Opies, but also by less well-known investigators. It would have been helpful to have had rather more biography than simply, for example, membership of an Oxford college. The dissociation of authors from the table of contents seems unnecessarily irritating.

Quality and style vary greatly, as is to be expected, one or two articles confirming the prejudice that sociologists use a lot of jargon to demonstrate the trivial. Others, however, are real contributions to theory and practice, well written and with excellent additional references. The final article by A. J. Crowle on the ambiguities inherent in sociological investigations is particularly valuable. The aim of unifying this immensely diverse material was for me at least unsuccessful. Despite these criticisms, however, the book brings together a number of fascinating topics within a small compass and in these days is very moderately priced.

PHYLLIS SHAW

TREATMENT

Psychiatric Emergencies. Edited by ROBERT A. GLICK, ARTHUR T. MEYERSON, EDWIN ROBBINS and JOHN A. TALBOTT. New York: Grune & Stratton. 1976. Pp viii+289. Index 9 pp. Price £9.75.

This book is intended to give full practical coverage of its subject, with detailed consideration of the examination, management and treatment of the main emergencies as they present in the 'emergency room'. This is the Casualty department, for this is an American book by no fewer than 17 writers, all from New York City. It is aimed at the junior doctor sitting in the downtown hospital waiting, rather apprehensively, for the action. One can almost hear and smell the city in these pages, and the apprehension of the doctor may well be justified, to judge by the many references to the handling of dangerously violent patients. 'Restraints' are considered in detail, and it is said to be wisest to post guards outside the office before mentioning hospitalization to a paranoid patient. The doctor will not be much more calmed than the aggressive patient when the latter is given 25 mg of chlorpromazine intramuscularly (p 54).

All of the chapters are well-written, and despite the urban American setting and American problems of 'disposition' (i.e. disposal), this book would be valuable and often consulted on a bookshelf in the Casualty department or in a library in this country.

A. C. SMITH

Keeping Patients in Psychiatric Treatment.

By CHAIM M. ROSENBERG AND ANTHONY RAYNES. Chichester: John Wiley. Pp xi+161. Index 5 pp. Price £10.40.

In recent years an increasing amount of attention has been paid to the problem of why so many patients fail to cooperate in psychiatric treatment, whether by not taking medication as prescribed or by failing to keep appointments. The authors of this book make a valiant attempt to review systematically the possible factors involved in the patients, the therapists and the treatments offered. Although mainly concerned with the US scene they provide valuable lessons for all psychiatrists.

The drop-out rate appears to be highest for individual psychotherapy, for one-third have defaulted by the fourth visit and 90 per cent by the twentieth visit. Nevertheless, one-quarter to one-third of psychiatric out-patients fail to take their medication, and a similar proportion of medical patients default, for example, in the treatment of tuberculosis and hypertension.