

concerned with teaching theory, conflicting views which could lead to an explosive situation.

Ann Dutton's formula for improving recruitment (wastage, she found was not a major factor producing the shortage) is 'to foster friendly, cooperative relationships between the different groups of hospital staff by every means within the existing situation', as the disharmony between different groups of hospital staff revealed in the survey 'seems not only to be a significant contributory factor in student wastage rates and the poor image of tutoring but also to show a negative correlation with patient recovery rates'. On a more practical level, the author has in the body of the report implied the need for better maintenance grants while in training, the opportunity for part-time courses, and the possibility of other courses being set up outside London as, at the time of the survey there was only one non-metropolitan course, located at Preston.

Some of the attitude statements, particularly in the first questionnaire used, seem crude; the failure to include men in the survey is a serious weakness; and the more practical proposals contained in the body of the report could have been summarized at the end. Nevertheless this book deserves serious consideration by all psychiatrists interested in nurse training, and should be obligatory reading for all members of nurse education committees.

PETER BROOK.

NEUROSCIENCES

Brain and Human Behaviour. Edited by A. G. KARZMAR and J. C. ECCLES. Berlin, Heidelberg and New York: Springer-Verlag. 1972. Pp. 475 + x. Price DM. 98.00.

This volume is divided into five main sections based on a symposium held in Chicago in October 1969 and sponsored by the Loyola University. The main sections are devoted to molecular and synaptic organization, chemical mechanisms and pharmacological approaches, neurophysiological correlates, psychological aspects and epistemological aspects. Each section includes three to six papers but only some are followed by a printed discussion. World famous workers in the neuro-sciences took part in this symposium from I. S. Beritashvili to H. Hyden, and from R. Granit to J. Piaget. Here and there philosophical and mechanistic theories of behaviour are mingled with neurophysiological observations of electron-microscopic aspects of the molecular organization of synapses for chemical transmission.

The introduction to this book by Karczmar was obviously prepared a little while after the end of the symposium, as it quotes some of his own work in

1970 and the work of others in 1970 and 1971. The volume, however, in spite of its heterogeneity of approach contains a great deal of information in each one of the fields in which each author is an expert, with a considerable number of bibliographical references. A subject index of 9 pages completes this very well printed and illustrated volume, which leaves the reviewer somewhat puzzled by the amount of detailed knowledge in particular fields and the little factual integration between neurophysiology, neuro-anatomy, behavioural sciences, religion, the body and the mind. The contribution by Holger Hyden, which represents only a small part of his brilliant work, should be read by all those interested in brain and human behaviour, but each author has contributed his very best, even if some have utilized already published material.

G. PAMPIGLIONE.

CASEWORK

The Caseworkers' Use of Relationships. By MARGARET L. FERARD and NOEL K. HUNNYBUN. Tavistock Publications. 1972. Pp. 133. Price 75p.

Social Work and Medical Practice. By HERSCHEL A. PRINS and MARION B. H. WHYTE. Pergamon Press. 1972. Pp. 81. Price £1.95.

Doctors and even psychiatrists are too little aware of the specific skills and practical methods of social work. The first of these books is a reprint in paperback of a brief and lucid account of the processes of casework and its underlying psychodynamic principles. Well illustrated by examples it is an admirable introduction to its subject. The second book seeks to describe the history, organization and methods of social work to doctors and students. It is short and contains much useful information and some well selected references, but it lacks incisiveness especially in the early chapters which attempt to portray a comprehensive historical background. It is disappointing that the book as a whole does not entirely live up to its author's aims to present the fundamental concepts of social work.

RICHARD MAYOU.

PSYCHOSOMATIC

Psychosomatic Disorders: A Behaviouristic Interpretation. By SHELDON J. LACHMAN. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. 1972. Pp. 208. Price £3.25 (cloth), £1.75 (paperback).

Are psychosomatic disorders learned? In 1963 Dr. Lachman asserted that they can be. Taking the idea that intense or prolonged emotional reactions may lead to psychosomatic illness, he linked it with

autonomic learning theory. For example, he postulated that through conditioning a variety of *new* stimuli may evoke a given physiological response pattern; and that patterns may be selectively learned by differential reinforcement. Lachman's theory encompasses genetic and environmental predisposition, individual differences, and the psychosomatic vicious circle; he considers its application to the common psychosomatic conditions but mentions their treatment only briefly.

The book contains an extremely useful set of testable hypotheses.

H. G. S. SERGEANT.

LSD

LSD: Personality and Experience. By HARRIET LINTON BARR, ROBERT J. LANGS, ROBERT R. HOLT, LEO GOLDBERGER and GEORGE S. KLEIN. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. Pp. 247. Price £4.50.

Is throwing a psychoactive spanner into the works a promising strategy for investigating the functioning of the brain? The authors describe an experiment in which they gave 100 micrograms of LSD to each of

30 out-of-work actors. During the course of the experimental day the Rorschach test and a variety of questionnaires were administered, and the experimenters made observations. There was a 20 subject control group, but the fact that only a placebo had been administered was obvious to subjects and experimenters alike.

The results are interpreted within a psychoanalytic framework. The main conclusion is that the effect of the drug on any individual is predictable in terms of that individual's personality. The work was carried out in 1959, and thus at a time when cultural expectations as to the likely nature of LSD's effects would not have been as strong a set as they would be today.

The authors are clearly dealing with enormously important matters, for they are attempting to make higher-order mental functioning into experiment. The reader is left with respect for their daring—but also with very considerable doubt as to how their undoubtedly fascinating data are to be interpreted. We know too little about the machine and much too little about the spanner for this sort of approach to offer much illumination.

GRIFFITH EDWARDS.