

symptoms in the same way as one who has never progressed beyond these? Does the successful elimination of his neurotic symptoms reduce the likelihood of recurrence of the delusional picture? At least partial answers are required to questions such as these before clinicians are likely to see any intrinsic advantage in this system of classification.

ANTONIA WHITEHEAD

PSYCHOANALYSIS

Psychoanalytic Technique and Psychic Conflict.

By CHARLES BRENNER. New York: International Universities Press, Inc. 1976. Pp v+206. Index 15 pp. Price \$11.50.

The author begins his Introduction with 'This book is intended for practising analysts, present and future'. The term analysis has become so widely used that many people barely distinguish psychoanalysis (Freudian) from Jungian and Adlerian analysis and other forms of psychotherapy. Even analysts of the Freudian school vary considerably in their techniques, and one of the purposes of this book would seem to be to challenge some of the innovations.

Brenner, who is a Freudian analyst, defines the components of psychic conflict as (1) wishful striving, (2) anticipated danger, (3) defence and (4) compromise among these. His approach is realistic and multifactorial: all behaviour, healthy and unhealthy, stems from these original conflicts. He is as keen to analyse the acceptable compromises as those causing the individual's anxiety.

The headings of the main chapters are 'Defense Analysis', 'Superego Analysis', 'Transference'. The last chapter is entitled 'Goals of Analysis, Case Selection, Practical Arrangements, and Other Topics'. The author favours the narrow precise technique, the use of the couch at all sessions. He points out possible misinterpretation if the analyst and client shake hands or if the full fee is not expected when a patient has missed a booked session, even on the grounds of family illness or snow making the road impassable.

Dr Brenner is under no illusion that you only learn through doing, but you must stick to the rules. There is still much to be learned from continued skilful and persistent analysis without the use of computers, tapes and other innovations.

The book is clearly written, easy to follow, and without the prolix sentences too often found in analytical literature. In this day and age, when anything goes and yet many patients improve, a book of this character is useful for helping psychotherapists of many schools to distinguish what are the important factors in their own personal tech-

niques, and Freudian analysts will find it particularly challenging.

R. F. BARBOUR

THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES

Maturation of the Therapeutic Community: An Organic Approach to Health and Mental Health. By MAXWELL JONES. New York: Human Sciences Press. 1976. Pp xxviii+169. Index 5 pp. Price \$12.95.

Dr Maxwell Jones, well known in the United Kingdom for his work at the Henderson Hospital and later at Dingleton, introduced the term 'therapeutic community' about thirty years ago. Although they would not all agree on what is essential in a community to make it therapeutic, many psychiatrists have been led by him to look critically at their hospital units and to put such questions as: Is communication between staff and patients two-way? Is there a friendly exchange of information and views at all levels? How responsive are staff to the changing needs and wishes of patients? How flexible and modifiable are relationships between care-givers and patients? In what degree is power separated from leadership, and diffused? How general is participation in decision-taking? How impartial is the management of confrontations? How much support is given to staff of low status when they express views? In Part I of this book, Dr Jones looks at the extension to society in general of the ideas he has acquired from his experience in psychiatric units and, more recently, in schools and prisons. In Part II he describes the conduct of consultations and other applications in mental health institutions.

In a preface Dr Jones is presented to his readers as a rebel calling for a revolution in the social organization of institutions and in society generally, the alternative offered being to remain bound to conformity and material values. To readers who are 'change agents', whether 'interventionists' or 'facilitators', his intentions will appear laudable but imprecise. Disagreement with him is the more difficult because of the looseness with which he uses 'sociotechnical' terms. The first chapter, for instance, starts by giving for 'systems' a definition taken from general system theory, but Dr Jones uses this term in a less specific sense and often refers to the 'openness' of systems, meaning not, as is usual in general system theory, in exchange with the environment, or not isolated, but democratic and not hierarchical. He puts the emphasis on being egalitarian and on the sharing of responsibility, rather than on the reciprocity and complementarity of roles, but the limits to sharing are left vague. The broth may be