

services. The success of the Centers remains to be evaluated. Another chapter of interest is by Gardner, on 'Psychological Care for the Poor'. He presents data from the Monroe County Register which show that patients from lower socio-economic areas receive a poor standard of psychiatric service, and puts forward a proposal for reorganizing the services based on a discussion of the reasons for maldistribution.

Part 3 deals with new approaches in the schools. There are chapters on enhancing the teacher's mental health function, primary prevention in the classroom, and the early identification and prevention of emotional disturbance in a public school. Two experiments are also described. In one, by Iscoe and others, mental health consultation is made available to certain schools but not to others. Results of the comparison are not yet available. In the other, by Gildea, Glidewell and Kantor, no advantage could be demonstrated when a school-centred mental health service was introduced. This chapter is particularly rewarding because of its unusually scientific approach to evaluation.

Community psychiatry as practised in the National Health Service receives little mention in this book, and the political philosophies which account for so much of the difference between British and American services receive no mention at all. Many of the approaches to community mental health which are described will be unfamiliar to British readers. There is no doubt that some of them will find an application in this country, and the book should be read for a foretaste of things to come.

J. K. WING.

The Halfway House Movement: A Search for Sanity. By HAROLD L. RAUSH with CHARLOTTE L. RAUSH. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1968. Price \$5.50.

The Halfway House in the United States is the equivalent, except in its economic arrangements, of our psychiatric hostel. In both countries these houses were established to provide the former mental hospital patient with a transitional step on the way back to community life. They aimed to repair the desocializing effects of hospital admission, and prepare a former patient to meet again the stresses and expectations of daily life.

They were an outgrowth of the mental hospital whose practice the hostels reflect or reject in differing degrees. Evaluation of their success is difficult, for they are only one stage in a patient's readaptation and their residents are always highly selected. At present they are judged by the way in which their residents' lives resemble or differ from that of the

mental hospital patient. The authors devised a questionnaire which sought information from forty halfway houses about their residents, staff, aims and rules. From the information gained, the houses can be arranged in a series extending from those which, in values and practice, resemble the hospital to those which explore new methods of social care in a residential setting. The questionnaire elicited much practical information about the buildings, costs, staffing, and so on, which will be of interest to those who operate, use, or intend to establish a psychiatric hostel. But the book goes further than this. The authors, not satisfied with a discussion of the practical and administrative advantages of the Halfway House, go on to examine the theoretical possibilities of this new form of residential care. For them it is not only a transitional step for the ex-hospital patient, but a transitional stage in the evolution of new patterns of psychiatric care. This is the important point.

It is no criticism of the book that the authors do not examine the implications of the current proliferation of services geared, like Halfway Houses, to the needs of those who can accept middle-class social values. But someone will have to think about care for the unco-operative, untreatable, anti-social patient.

DOUGLAS BENNETT.

GENERAL PSYCHIATRY

Modern Perspectives in World Psychiatry. Edited by JOHN G. HOWELLS. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, Ltd. 1968. Pp. 787. Price £8 8s.

This is a large star-studded 800-page volume. The editor is careful in his preface to point out that it is not a text book, but one volume of a series aimed at presenting authoritative surveys of growing points in psychiatry. This volume is limited to two main themes, dividing the book into halves. The first part is largely devoted to surveys of experimental, anatomical, biochemical and neurological aspects of neuro-psychiatry; the second to the general clinical field. Perhaps the most useful thing this reviewer can do, having spent several worthwhile hours scanning the book and sampling the reading matter, is to present a list of the authors and their subject matter together with occasional comment. There are twenty-six sections in the book.

The first chapter provides a succinct comment by L. S. Penrose on our present knowledge of schizophrenic genetics. His survey, made without reference to the recent Scandinavian twin reports and to Heston's study, concludes wisely and in an heuristically valuable way with a clear statement of the