

'trauma' to be repetitious without acknowledging the fact that many patients look forward to surgery as an end to pain, discomfort, or the invasion of malignancy.

The book includes many short case histories which make the text vivid, although the emphasis on individual psychotherapy tends to be a little dismissive of the value of the diagnostic psychiatric interview and physical treatments. The last chapter redresses the balance somewhat by underlining the need for rapid goal-directed psychotherapeutic intervention. The book should contain more emphasis on the strategies used to improve the ward milieu, communication between staff and patients, and the morale of staff. Equally, perhaps, the importance of understanding the premorbid personality traits should be stressed, because these so often predict the patient's attitude to the operation and contribute to his post-operative satisfaction.

These are minor strictures on an otherwise very readable and useful book.

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**Studies in Neuropsychology: Selected Papers of Arthur Benton.** Edited by L. COSTA and O. SPREEN. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1986. 351 pp. £36.00.

Professor Benton has not published a general comprehensive work on neuropsychology; his vast contribution to the field remains scattered throughout neurological and neuropsychological journals. This welcome volume contains seminal contributions that Benton and his collaborators have made to neuropsychological investigation. It represents, however, only a fragment of his output.

The book has been divided into nine sections, each dealing with a specific neuropsychological problem. Aphasia is the topic of the first section; the two papers in this section present a historical review touching on early descriptions of aphasia and the contribution of Freud to the interpretation of aphasic disorders. Sections II and III contain articles dealing with cerebral localisation and the appraisal of the method of double stimulation in which the problem of sensory extinction is discussed. Constructional apraxia and spatial abilities is the focus of section IV, and section V is devoted to the topic of reaction time and brain disease. The so-called 'Gerstman syndrome' is the subject of three articles in section VI, and the problems of hemispheric dominance and vision are discussed in section VII. The last two sections have a more direct relevance to the psychiatrist. One deals with the topic of developmental neuropsychology, which includes Benton's seminal paper 'The concept of pseudofeeble-mindedness' (1956) in which a then-popular term is carefully analysed and criticised. The final section contains two papers

useful in the psychiatric clinic: "Problems of conceptual issues in neuropsychological research in ageing and dementia" (1984), and "Normal observations on neuropsychological test performance in old age" (1981).

The collection shows many facets of neuropsychology, and offers useful guidance in testing and test design. The historical emphasis of most of Benton's articles provides a useful perspective of the history of neuropsychology.

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**The Clinical Roots of the Schizophrenia Concept: Translations of Seminal European Contributions to Schizophrenia.** Edited by J. CUTTING and M. SHEPHERD. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1987. 238 pp. £27.50.

Whoever writes the first history of psychiatric anthologies in English will have to observe that, since the earlier centos by White, Goshen, Hunter & McAlpine and Hirsch & Shephard, the compass of these useful (albeit non-historical) publications has gone from the general to the particular. The same historian will also have to say that this change has made things harder for would-be anthologists.

The old anthologies assumed little historical knowledge; to produce a good one it was sufficient to rummage one's library and choose the right morsels. 'Committed' anthologies, on other hand, demand such knowledge, as inclusion criteria entail a historical hypothesis. Old anthologies were difficult to review (omissions could always result from whims or quaint preferences); the new ones can be judged historically.

The book under review offers an *aperçu* of the history of schizophrenia. The material is heavily edited, but it is possible to gain an idea of the views involved. The translations are competent and clear. Because of its guiding historical hypothesis, work by Kraepelin, Bleuler, and their clientele is mostly considered. The inclusion of Kleist is more imaginative, but Wernicke is not mentioned nor indeed Meynert, particularly his work on amnesia. One can understand why Kahlbaum's *Catatonia* has been left out (it is available in English translation), but not why his superb 1890 paper on 'Heboidophrenie' has been omitted, nor why Daraszkievicz's classic monograph on 'Hebephrenie' and Jung's work do not get a mention.

The most glaring omission concerns French works. It feels often as if inclusion has been guided more by availability than by historical intelligence. For an analysis of the earlier vicissitudes of dementia praecox in France (which, incidentally, the Germans followed with worried amusement) would have shown that during the first decade of the current century the protagonists were Marandon de Montyel, Mongeri, Parant, Monod, Deny, and Roy, and during the second Mairat and