

fields of psychiatry and psychology. The book is also a very useful source of information, as each chapter is followed by an ample list of references.

MARIA A. WYKE

Theories of Group Processes. Edited by CARY L. COOPER. London: John Wiley & Sons. 1975. Pp x+272. Index 5 pp. Price £7.95.

This book sets out to explore a variety of conceptual models upon which theories of group processes can be based. It also aims to enhance our understanding of group behaviour and to provide a comprehensive picture of small and large group processes and dynamics. The topics covered range from interpersonal trust in group processes, group organization and team building, the leader and the experiential group, winners and losers and the search for equality in groups, and many more. Some of the chapters are so condensed that they are difficult to read, and there is a good deal of armchair speculation which is so abstract that one wonders about its possible relevance to group life in reality. There is little attempt to relate new speculations to existing knowledge, and research in analytic group psychotherapy has been largely ignored. One is left with the impression of a hydra type of development with new growth points detaching themselves from the main body and developing largely in isolation.

The book falls far short of achieving its objectives, but despite its many obvious defects it does contain parts that are challenging and of interest, and for these alone it should not be ignored by those who are concerned with group processes, whether teachers, managers or group psychotherapists.

JOHN A. HARRINGTON

Mental Handicap. By GORDON DUTTON. London and Boston: Butterworths. 1975. Pp. ix+176. Price £6.00.

This book by a well-known specialist in this subject has been written in the Postgraduate Psychiatry Series and is explicitly intended as a text for use in psychiatric training. As such it is an interesting addition to the very small number of books on mental handicap for the general medical reader, especially the trainee psychiatrist working for his Membership.

Such a general introductory text is much more difficult to write than an exhaustive textbook because of the enormous width of problems presented by mental handicap to the clinician. This is particularly so when it comes to the great number of rare clinical conditions which can be responsible for the occurrence of intellectual and social deficits. Dr Dutton strikes the right balance between the need to be exhaustive and dealing in adequate detail with those conditions which can give the understanding of the issues concerned. He is to be commended on dealing succinctly and informatively with such new advances in mental handicap as karyotyping, amniocentesis and dermatoglyphics. It would perhaps have been more helpful, however, if dermatoglyphics had been presented as a finding common to all chromosome conditions rather than being restricted to Down's Syndrome. Aetiology and preventive work are well dealt with.

It is obviously a personal decision how much weight to give to each individual area of the specialty, and in the reviewer's opinion the author could profitably have devoted more space to purely psychiatric aspects and to genetic counselling than he has done in his competent but rather compressed chapters. It is a pity that E. O. Lewis's historic contribution in developing the epidemiological studies has not been given any recognition.

Dr Dutton appears to be less sure of himself when dealing with the social aspects, particular with the provision of services. He tends to pass over too lightly the relationship of intelligence to social competence and accepts too easily the cut-off of mental handicap at an IQ of 70. He gives without any discussion details of the present fashionable attitudes towards 'normalization' and 'community care' to the point of reproducing the Department of Health and Social Security's figures and even referring to patients as 'clients'! It is fair to expect a more critical attitude in an area of such great social and professional importance.

I very much hope that Dr Dutton will deal with these points in a second edition of this book, which from its overall excellence is bound to be needed before long.

A. SHAPIRO