

be otherwise when the field is large), and so one cannot rely on them to contain standard pieces. When they do reprint important papers, especially recent ones, much of what they give us is accessible enough in major journals anyway. Editors steer a difficult course, rarely with complete success, between the subjective and the trite. Inasmuch as they aim, as does Dr. Kiev, to collect 'the important contributions', they are likely to overlap in their choice: thus, Shepherd and Cooper's *Epidemiology and Mental Disorder* reappeared recently also in Freeman and Farndale's *New Aspects of the Mental Health Services*. More expensive in general than textbooks, these collections are often even more ephemeral.

By contrast, they are convenient, and probably even most readers familiar with the field often find much in them that they have overlooked. One finds it hard, though, to echo Dr. Kiev's hope that such compendia will be useful 'for teaching purposes': it will be a sad day when teachers feel the need for ready-made selections for their students, and when students come to expect them. If it is argued that the intention isn't that students should swallow the collections whole, but merely choose from them, then the books do little more than take their place alongside the journals which they duplicate as sources of reference.

The present volume aims to reprint articles which first appeared in 1965-1967 (though Shepherd and Cooper's piece appeared in 1964 and the one by Marc Fried in 1963). It is described as 'Volume I', and it is not clear how many subsequent volumes are planned, nor whether the intention is to enlarge the area covered or to continue the choice to later years. A suggestion for future volumes: it would help the reader in finding his way to particular references, all of which are gathered at the end of the book, if the pages of references were headed with the names of the chapters to which they refer.

In short, a book which not many people are likely to want to buy for themselves, acceptable though it may be as a present, or review copy.

TOM ARIE.

#### THE MARSEILLES SCHOOL

##### **The Physiopathogenesis of the Epilepsies.**

Edited by H. GASTAUT, H. JASPER, J. BANCAUD and A. WALTREGNY. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1969. Pp. 316. Price \$27.00.

This book contains the proceedings of the second International Institute of Advanced Studies in Human Electroencephalography, which was held in Marseilles in 1966. The book is divided into four sections, as follows:

1. Generalized epilepsies of functional, metabolic or genetic nature.

2. The physiopathogenesis of generalized epilepsies of organic nature.

3. Animal studies dealing with the neurological basis of generalized epilepsy.

4. A discussion concerning the concept of idiopathic epilepsies.

The list of contributors is international, including many recognized authorities on epilepsy, but there is, not surprisingly, a strong emphasis on the French contributions.

The book will appeal more to the neurophysiologist than to the clinician. Most of the papers describe the subject from a purely neurophysiological point of view, although some excellent clinical material is also presented. The book suffers from the inevitable disadvantages which occur in publishing the proceedings of a conference, as it is not clear for what sort of audience the book is intended: some of the papers are relatively simple, for example the discussion of epilepsy in hypocalcaemia, whereas others deal entirely with neurophysiological animal experiments. The standard of the papers is also uneven. One author points out that confusion exists between 'genuine epilepsy' and 'genetic epilepsy' and concludes his article with the following statement: 'If it has not been possible to systematically carry out all investigations it is better not to speak of "epilepsy of unknown origin"'. This diagnosis will not satisfy the doctor and he will be encouraged to multiply examinations to determine the origin of the epilepsy with which he is confronted.'

On the other hand there are excellent papers dealing with stereotactically implanted electrodes and the recording from these of induced and spontaneous seizures.

All the papers are published in English and many of them have suffered in the translation. I found parts extremely difficult to understand; for example this sentence in the introduction: 'Provocation, by intraperitoneal cardiazol injection, of bilateral, synchronous and symmetrical discharges of spike, then of spike and wave, in the sheep foetus, 45 days old, as yet devoid of any spontaneous cortical electrical activity, and although the encephalon is still reduced to a well developed mesodiencephalon, provided with two thin telencephalic vesicles without the slightest outline of callosal commissure and while the pyramidal cells of the cortical layer of these vesicles are as yet bipolar and devoid of any collateral fibres.' There is no verb here of which 'provocation' could be the subject, an omission allowed in French but not in English. This complexity of expression and flouting of English grammar unfortunately

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occurs in a sufficient number of the articles to reduce the value of the book. The editor could have been more ruthless, too, with the diagrams, as some of them are confusingly complex: for example, in the article on the EEG findings in patients with renal insufficiency, 19 different variables are shown in one figure.

The conclusions of the Conference, in the final chapters, that the concepts of idiopathic epilepsy should now be discarded, are probably not as universally accepted as the editors would have us believe, but they do without doubt represent the views of the 'Marseilles school of epilepsy'. This book is not of general psychiatric interest, but it could be a useful reference work for neurophysiologists or those clinicians with a physiological bias who are dealing mainly with epilepsy.

P. FENWICK.

#### A CONCISE WORKING MANUAL

**U.C.H. Notes on Psychiatry.** Edited by R. F. TREGOLD and H. H. WOLFF. Gerald Duckworth. 1970. Pp. 293. Price 50s

University College Hospital's Department of Psychiatry, in common with many other similar teaching institutions, clearly follows the practice of distributing mimeographed notes or 'broadsheets' to their students to supplement and consolidate material presented in lectures. It is inevitable that such notesheets should eventually be collected and brought together in published form. This process has produced some excellent manuals in other medical subjects, and the present manual of psychiatric notes is a welcome addition to this literature.

These notes are excellently presented. The authors have managed to preserve conciseness without making the 'notes' format too obvious, and at the same time have managed not to sacrifice style for brevity, hence the final outcome is a nicely-presented and easily-readable textbook. One might have assumed, perhaps, that the multiple authorship of the original notes would have been reflected to some extent in the text of the book; the fact that this is nowhere apparent is a tribute to the editors, whose task it was to convert a heterogeneous collection of notes into a series of 'uniform' chapters.

It is a truly concise working manual of psychiatry. Every relevant topic is considered, with first-class chapters on Examination of the Patient and on Psychodynamics. There are, too, the usual topics of Psychiatric Syndromes, Methods of Treatment, and Psychosomatic Conditions. A descriptive summary of the psychiatric services in Britain, and of ethical problems related to psychiatry (e.g. termina-

tion of pregnancy and euthanasia) are also included.

This book will be of great value to students of medicine and psychiatry, and would form a valuable psychiatric manual for the general practitioner. I am certain it will quickly establish itself as a standard text.

T. R. WILSON.

#### COMING OF AGE

**Difficulties in the Path of Psychoanalysis.** By ANNA FREUD. New York: International Universities Press. 1969. Pp. 83. Price \$4.00.

This little book marks the appearance in print of the lecture delivered by Anna Freud in New York City on 16 April 1968. It was the 18th Freud Anniversary Lecture sponsored by the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.

I had the good fortune to attend this meeting at which Anna Freud presented her paper in her usual charming and gracious manner. What impressed me, apart from the content of the lecture, was the size of the audience and the enthusiastic reaction to her remarks. When one considers the small number of people who attended Freud's early lectures in Vienna, one could not help but be struck by the capacity attendance that came to hear Anna Freud. I was struck too by the large number of young people, as well as the many senior analysts, in the audience. It was vivid testimony that psychoanalysis has indeed come of age.

Anna Freud divides her considerations of the difficulties to which psychoanalysis is exposed today under three general headings: those coming from the public; those from the patients; and those from the psychoanalysts themselves.

Under the first heading she compares the widespread acceptance of psychoanalysis today with the ridicule to which it was exposed in the early days of its existence. She indicates, however, that there are still many challenges which psychoanalysis must meet today. One difficulty results from the lessening of the appeal of analysis for today's young people, who feel that 'psychoanalysis is now in the hands of the parent generation and as such suspect.'

In the second part of her book she turns to a consideration of the difficulties coming from the patients.

She is very critical of the trend toward the analysis of the earliest stages of the individual's development. She also raises the controversial point about the unique role of transference in the psychoanalytic process to the exclusion of other avenues of communication, specifically whether transference really has the power to transport the patient back as far as the beginning of life. She raises the serious question