

Twin Research: Part A. Psychology and Methodology; Part B. Biology and Epidemiology; Part C. Clinical Studies. Edited by WALTER NANCE. New York: Alan R. Liss. 1978. A. Pp 272, B. Pp 218, C. Pp 287. Set: \$80 (A. \$27, B. \$22, C. \$30).

This publication is the twenty-fourth and latest in the series *Progress in Clinical and Biological Research*. All the papers included were presented at the Second International Congress of Twin Studies held in Washington eighteen months ago. The material has been divided into three parts, separately bound.

In Part A—*Psychology and Methodology*, a total of twenty-seven articles are grouped into three subsections. In the first, 'The Psychology of Twins', the main areas covered are particular aspects of personality development and the emergence of sexual and social attitudes in twin partners. The unresolved question of genetic determinants of handedness and hemispheric asymmetry of language function is also discussed. In spite of its title—'Behaviour Genetic Studies with Twins', the second edition includes two excellent papers on the experimental use and abuse of monozygotic twins reared apart. James Shields' methodological appraisal of the use of MZA twins to determine the genetic bias in personality development, intelligence and psychiatric illness is succinct and clear. Reference is made to his own series of forty-four identical twins separated during childhood; the article contains a surprisingly frank criticism of earlier, similar work by Sir Cyril Burt. Also presented in the same section are a comprehensive Danish twin study of manic-depressive disorder and an evaluation of the possible use of twin data on psychiatric nosology. Examples of the latter are confirmation of the division, initially by Leonhard, of endogenous depression into bipolar and unipolar types, and clarification of the relationship between schizophrenia and the schizoid personality. 'The Monozygotic Half-Sib Model: A Tool for Epidemiologic Research' is fairly representative of papers in the third section, 'Methodology of Twin Research'. Intelligibility of content is presumably confined to practising geneticists and those with vivid imaginations.

Part B—*Biology and Epidemiology*, and Part C—*Clinical Studies* are almost devoid of psychiatric interest. Areas covered include biological, obstetric and epidemiological aspects of twinning, twin registries, biochemical and anthropometric studies, and twin data of various medical states.

For those directly involved in psychiatric or psychological research utilizing twins and for those with a more general interest in medical genetics, this

volume probably constitutes worthwhile reading. From a more general psychiatric standpoint its value is decidedly limited.

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Social Conflict and Mental Health Services. By ROBERT D. BORGMAN. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1978. Pp 339. \$24.50, \$18.50 (paperback).

This book is an expression of concern, generated by the author's experience of working in an American community mental health centre. He believed that mental health treatment was frequently imposed on unwilling recipients, resulting in violations of human rights and loss of personal dignity. Thus, one of his main objectives is "to incorporate the concerns expressed in the 'anti-psychiatry' literature in formulating a workable, constructive model of mental health treatment applicable to reluctant clients as well as to those seeking treatment voluntarily". The main concepts are derived from sociological conflict theories such as those of L. Coser and R. Dahrendorf and they are applied to diverse situations including suicide, homicide, school aversion, adolescent conflicts, the menopause and old age. The attempt to consider such significant issues within this sociological framework is welcome as it complements other psychological and sociological approaches which are more widely available. It is a great pity, therefore, that the author loses credibility by degenerating at times into simplistic generalizations and inaccuracies. I wish I could recommend the book more wholeheartedly.

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Unilateral and Bilateral ECT: A Psychiatric and Psychological Study of Therapeutic Effect and Side Effects. By JORGEN HESHE, ERIK RÔDER and ALICE THEILGAARD. Copenhagen, Denmark. 1978. Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica, Supplementum 275. Pp 180. No price stated.

In this study bilateral ECT was found, one week after the end of a course, to be a more effective treatment for the depressive phase of a manic depressive illness than unilateral ECT given over the non-dominant hemisphere. Seven patients, five of whom were women over 60, failed to respond to unilateral ECT and alone accounted for its inferior showing.