

rate the personalities of a series of blurred photographs of human faces. But Liggett does not produce enough evidence for the reader to be able to evaluate whether or not this test can usefully be added to the already overpopulated family of such projective techniques.

C. R. BAGLEY.

#### REFERENCE

BIRLEY, J. L. T. (1968). 'A social psychiatrist's view of medical care.' *Lancet*, ii, 1181-4.

**Marriage under Stress.** By GERALD SANCTUARY. London: George Allen and Unwin Limited. 1968. Pp. 197. Price 35s.

It is estimated that some eight per cent of marriages in England and Wales end in divorce and that the figure in the United States is nearer twenty per cent. Divorce is but one aspect of the complex picture of marital breakdown, and this book gives a comprehensive picture of the world-wide work of marriage counselling. It is a sombre picture of devoted effort combating severe shortage of trained personnel, money and general facilities. It is also one that should stir the consciences of the medical profession, particularly of psychiatrists. It is clear that there will never be enough professionally trained specialists to undertake the work of marital reconciliation, but their expertise is needed urgently for basic research into the causes of marital breakdown, and for the undertaking of an expanding programme of supervision and training of suitable workers in the excellent voluntary organizations that exist for this work.

J. DOMINIAN.

#### GROUP THERAPY

**Experiences in Groups and Other Papers.** By W. R. BION. London: Tavistock Publications. Pp. 198. Price 15s.

Bion is a self-confessed Kleinian. The great Melanie was breast-obsessed, but unfortunately most of our patients were bottle-fed. Also, the reviewer has always had difficulties with oedipal concepts.

New definitions are introduced. The Work Group should experience only 'friendly feelings'. The group analyst is being manipulated. The group pairs off. Messianic hopes result in fight-flight. Basic group assumption includes the existence of a leader. The use of Christian names is a group proposal arising from the desire for flight in a fight-flight situation. There is no need to postulate the existence of a herd instinct. Analytic techniques are essential.

McDougall's attempt at raising group levels are compared with Freud's assumption that the group intensifies individual emotions. Where is the quarrel?

The message of messianic hopes, striving after ultimate truth, panic intensification, badness and goodness, difficulties in verbalization, are all well-known group and individual phenomena. The group is seen by the author as an attempt at 'furthering the task-in-hand'. Surely this applies to non-therapeutic groups even more. The author concludes that groups emanate meaningful phenomena which need further elucidation. Too true.

Before all this, the author gives excellent insight into various group activities. He is inclined to preach to the converted, his language is sometimes over-complex, he sounds astounded at finding such things as preoccupation, and his interpretations are, *eo ipso*, analytical.

I found the book heavy going and rebelled against some conclusions. The analyst will revel in it. The author describes what all group therapists had in mind; he puts it into words, his own words. The book is very good even if it might not be everybody's cup of tea.

G. C. HELLER.

#### PSYCHOTIC ART

**Louis Wain, The Man who drew Cats.** By RODNEY DALE, with a section on the nature of Louis Wain's illness by Dr. D. L. DAVIES. London: William Kimber. Pp. xii + 204. Price 42s.

To read about the man who drew cats is an interesting experience, because all we seem to need are the pictures to look at. This means that in many ways the author starts at a disadvantage. Of course facts about creative artists in any field are always intriguing. We would like to find out what makes them tick and to discover the secret of their originality. Every time we fail, and back we go to the work, the real contribution of the man's life. When the author quotes, as he does at length all over the book, from Wain's own writings, it is so sad and pathetic that we want to hurry back to the drawings. All that we learn from the facts of his life is that he was mad, and in spite of this left so much to love and be grateful for.

Even as a little boy he suffered from his abnormal condition, and this stayed with him all his life. Perhaps it was because of it that he chose cats for constant observation and exploration. A kitten entered his life at the time of his wife's serious illness, and it was at first for her pleasure that he drew it again and again. Peter the cat stayed with him after his wife's death, and no doubt became a symbol and a reminder of happier days. True it is that his portraits of the cat's face are almost Rembrandtesque in their exploration. He tries to tell us about the cat's mind behind the