

any effect the personal qualities and skill of the interviewer may have in modifying the patient's response, or the subject's tendency to answer in a particular way is kept to a minimum. The rule against probing further to elicit abnormality which the interviewer suspects may be present shows the difference between this stimulus-response approach and that of a clinical psychiatrist interested in finding and rating individual symptoms. The question 'What is your state of health?' for example, is the only question directed towards physical complaints. If in reply to this, the patient mentions difficulty with sleeping the interviewer is not allowed to ask about sleep directly or to go into the type of sleep disturbance.

The authors have made a careful study of the reliability of the instrument. The ten subtests into which it is divided had low intercorrelations showing relative independence of one another. When several raters simultaneously scored the same series of patients, differences among the subtests were found to account for the major part of the variance in the two-way analysis of variance, differences among raters forming only a small part. Inter-observer variability for the whole interview was as low as 1.31 for four observers and lower still for the individual subtests.

Standardization of the schedule was carried out using 870 psychiatric in-patients, 59 psychiatric out-patients and 95 community subjects. Norms were also constructed for some special groups, e.g. adolescent subjects and subjects with physical illness. Interviewer effects were found to be slight and the authors claim the schedule has predictive validity. High scores on hospitalized schizophrenic patients are shown to be predictive of poor outcome of treatment. Although depressed patients and those with schizophrenia are clearly distinguished on symptom profiles, the profiles of schizophrenic and manic patients are very similar. Some of the differences which do exist between the profiles of these two conditions are partly due to the selection of patients, e.g. none of the 12 manic patients chosen by them had 'perceptual distortion' (i.e. hallucinations etc.), and so, by contrast to the schizophrenic patients, they scored nothing on this subtest.

For its purpose this is a well standardized tool, unique among psychology assessment techniques for the care which has been put into producing the present form. It is suitable for the research worker who is willing to undergo the course of training recommended and is interested in assessing quantitative alterations in a patient's or subject's behaviour, or in seeking to discriminate subjects showing abnormal behaviour from a normal population, provided he is content with symptoms spontaneously presented by the patient and is not relying on the interview for making a diagnosis.

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McGILL SYMPOSIUM

Psychiatric Research in Our Changing World.

Edited by G. F. D. HESELTINE. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1969. Pp. 184. £5. 13s.

The Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal was established in 1943 as the centre of the Department of Psychiatry of McGill University. Under the vigorous directorship of the late D. Ewen Cameron the department rapidly expanded and came to occupy a prominent position among institutions for psychiatric training and research in North America. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of this department in 1968 was celebrated by an international symposium, the proceedings of which are contained in this volume.

Between them the eleven invited speakers cover a wide range of topics, ranging from the purely biological ('Drug actions on adrenergic nerve terminals' by U.S. von Euler) to the purely conceptual ('Action Models' by J. Ruesch). The papers are of varied length and quality; the comprehensibility of three of the better contributions is impaired by a lack of illustrations. The rest of the book, comprising nearly half its material, contains summaries, discussions, formal addresses, photographs, and a separate section devoted to psychiatric nursing and entitled 'Explorations in the Nurse-Patient Encounter—Yesterday, To-day, and Tomorrow'.

The price is almost twice that of the latest edition of Henderson and Gillespie's *Textbook of Psychiatry*.

MICHAEL SHEPHERD.