

and suggests that one need not fear the technical problems. Although it is true that amateurs have made good films, most of those mentioned above are professional productions. Dr. Pilkington gives some useful hints on length, scripts, titles and editing for which he recommends expert help.

3. **Professional Film Making.** This interesting section begs film-makers to dissuade psychiatrists from dominating the screen and advises the use of professional commentators. Some film critics would not share the tolerance shown to a musical background, even to the title only.
4. **Types of Psychiatric Film.** These useful comments would have been more instructive if illustrated by points from particular films.
5. **Using Mental Health Films in an educational programme.** Dr. Pilkington is always at his best when dealing with practical problems and makes some important remarks on the presentation and choice of film. He recommends three amateur films, two by Dr. James Robertson and one by Dr. J. A. R. Bickford, as likely to stimulate discussion.

Appendices. One of these deals with legal requirements, a subject which has been considered by the R.M.P.A.'s film sub-committee, who are producing a memorandum on the subject.

This is a booklet which contains helpful advice to psychiatric film-makers and specially film-users.

A. S. THORLEY.

2. SUBNORMALITY

Tredgold's Textbook of Mental Deficiency. By R. F. TREDGOLD and K. SODDY. 10th edition. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1963. Pp. 530. Price 60s.

Tredgold's *Textbook of Mental Deficiency* was first published in 1908. For many years it remained the standard text on the subject. In the past half century, however, there has been a qualitative change in our knowledge and understanding of the nature of mental retardation. This change can in large measure be attributed to Penrose and those who like him have insisted on precise and objective measurement of the phenomena in this complex field. The authors of the present edition of Tredgold's text have added much new information but a more radical revision and re-writing was necessary to bring it completely up to date. For example, two pedigrees are shown on page 28 after a section on genes which they are said to illustrate. In fact they were originally intended to

illustrate the theory of the "neuropathic diathesis" which in its original form dates back to Morel and which was supported by Tredgold senior. Cases shown in black in the family tree include insanity, alcoholism, and imbecility; those hatched in suffered from croup, consumption, scarlet fever, died in infancy or miscarried. The illustration might have equally been produced as an example of family life in Victorian England.

Despite these defects the book contains a great deal of valuable and interesting information, much of which reflects changes and attitudes. However, the selection of material and sources is uncritical to an extent which may confuse the unsophisticated. Many interesting new developments in rehabilitation are well reported and the more optimistic outlook is evident, but in advocating caution the authors quote Kanner's account of 166 defectives in the United States who were released against medical advice. These patients are reported to have produced 165 children of whom 18 died and 108 were "incontestably feeble-minded". We are informed that no such follow-up has been done in Britain. This presumably applies to patients discharged against advice, but it might appear to refer to children of certified mental defectives. More recent surveys have in fact been done by Charles (in the U.S.A.) and by Brandon (in England). In both cases the average intelligence of a large group of children was not greatly below the norm and only a very small minority were classified as mentally defective. The differences may well reflect different methods, standards and attitudes in different surveys.

Turpin has been rendered as "Tarpis" in reference to the discovery of the additional chromosome in Down's disease.

BRIAN H. KIRMAN.

3. PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

Psycho-analysis and Faith. The Letters of Sigmund Freud and Oskar Pfister. Edited by HEINRICH MENG and ERNST L. FREUD. Translated by Eric Mosbacher. International Psycho-Analytical Library No. 59. London: The Hogarth Press and the Institute of Psycho-Analysis. 1963. Pp. 152. Price 21s.

This slender volume is, as can be seen from the title page, part of the programme of offering all Freud's output to the world. It is the third volume devoted to exchanges of letters—in this case with his early and constant admirer, Pastor Pfister of Zurich.

The latter's letters to Freud survived only in shorthand notes. Their reconstruction by the editor may have added something. Certainly the effect is to make one feel how much more positive, life-affirming and "therapeutic" a personality Pfister must have been. Despite the title, Freud's dispute over religion with his clergyman-critic-devotee occupies only a small part of the volume. At least as much is taken up by the two men's comments on the behaviour of fellow-analysts, orthodox and heretical.

Freud's essential pessimism, ill-concealed disdain of human beings, and great need for support hidden beneath a façade of modestly rejecting "the cult of his personality", emerge very clearly. Charitable Pfister deals both firmly and kindly with him.

The essentials of Freud's anti-theistic position are well known. Pfister's critique on pp. 113-117 is fresh, sincere and well worth reading.

It emerges that, notwithstanding Freud's scientism, apostasy from his position hurt him personally. There is a hint that people were "decent" to the degree to which they shared his views. Pfister managed to be the exception—probably because he established this blend of largely emotional sense of loyalty and open criticism (a merit of Swiss puritanism!) which must have differed from the more sycophantic, ambivalent behaviour of people like Adler, who is not spared by either man.

The essential interest of this volume is that of a patristic Text—it adds only a little to the history of psycho-analysis and psychiatry. It is a great tribute to the role and person of Oskar Pfister, one of the "early fathers" himself.

H. V. DICKS.

Psychoanalysis and Daseinsanalysis. By MEDARD BOSS. Translated by L. B. Lefebvre. New York: Basic Books Inc. 1963. Pp. 295. Price \$8.50.

Being-in-the-World—Selected Papers of Ludwig Binswanger. Translated and Critical Introduction by J. NEEDLEMAN. New York: Basic Books Inc. Pp. 364. 1963. Price 52s. 6d.

Apart from Rollo May's *Existence* published six years ago, most of the literature on existential psychiatry has not been accessible to the English-speaking psychiatrist. The publication of these two books is therefore extremely welcome. Dr. Boss is Professor of Psychotherapy and Head of the Training Department of the Psychiatric Clinic of Zurich University. His book is a translation and expansion of an earlier work published in German. The first section of the book gives a brief outline of Heidegger's views, which is approved by the philosopher himself. This section also refutes Binswanger's

deviations from Heideggerian philosophy. The next section is a daseinsanalytic criticism of the fundamental concepts of psychoanalytic theory, while the third section deals with the psychoanalytic theories of the neuroses. The final section is concerned with psychoanalytic therapy and contains a discussion of the daseinsanalytic views on transference and counter-transference. Some of the criticisms of psychoanalytic doctrines are merely repetitions of well-known objections, while others are the result of existentialism, which is a variety of subjective idealism. Thus Boss seems concerned to do away with an objective real world. If, however, there is no real world which can be used as a yardstick to measure our own and our patients' psychic reality, then it is difficult to find any reason for practising psychotherapy, or for that matter any branch of medicine.

All Boss appears to have done is to reformulate psychoanalytic ideas in a more incomprehensible jargon. Some of his interpretations are even more far fetched than the usual psychoanalytic ones. Thus, he tells us that patients with peptic ulcers wish to overpower, seize and take possession of the people and the things that they meet. As the stomach and duodenum belong to the world relation of seizing and overpowering, they become overactive in such patients and ulceration ensues.

Despite all objections, there is no doubt that Professor Boss has written an interesting and persuasive account of daseinsanalysis, which should be read by everyone interested in psychotherapy and psychopathology.

Professor Needleman, who is a philosopher, has translated some of Binswanger's more important contributions to daseinsanalysis. These papers are preceded by a long critical introduction by Needleman, which is an excellent review of Binswanger's ideas. Needleman suggests that there is an *existential a priori* which forms the basis of Binswanger's approach. It is difficult to see how this concept differs substantially from the Freudian one of "psychic reality". Binswanger's contributions include the preface to his book *Schizophrenie* which summarizes his views on schizophrenia and "The case of Lola Voss", which is one of his classic case studies. This latter article, unlike the rest, has been translated by Ernest Angel.

The two books reviewed here should be read by psychiatrists and psychologists who want to know more about daseinsanalysis. They are, however, warned that they will find the going difficult and may in the end come to the conclusion that the final result is not worth the effort.

FRANK FISH.