an approach that is humane rather than detached. This book will not figure in the literature quoted in 20 years' time, but the attitude towards the individual patient which it exemplifies will not fail to communicate itself to the reader.


This is a modest account of how the author, a clinical psychologist, effected improvement in the conduct of a group of troubled adolescents by daily friendly discussions and by steadily insisting that they should show awareness of separate identity, and of the concepts of space and time. The thesis is weakened by diagnostic naiveté, and overloaded with speculative psychopathology. It seems very unlikely, despite the title, that these seven juveniles were all in fact schizophrenic: the book would have gained greatly by the inclusion of adequate clinical details, however humdrum such descriptive material may seem to the therapeutic enthusiast.


This welcome book, by a travelled Norwegian psychiatrist, provides a well-documented, erudite account of the manifold experimental studies of schizophrenia carried out in eastern Europe, on lines developed and given a theoretical frame by Pavlov. Dr. Astrup has worked his way through a vast literature, of which he here provides a digest (there are 1,105 items in the bibliography, most of them Russian), and he reports extensive investigations of his own which he carried out on a sample of 306 chronic schizophrenics. On the strength of his findings he arrives at a subdivision of types of schizophrenia which does not rest, as in the Kraepelinian nosology, on the manifest phenomena of disease alone. Dr. Astrup has pointed the way for a vigorous experimental attack on some hitherto unfamiliar problems of the pathophysiology of schizophrenia.

DIE EXPERIMENTELLE PSYCHOSE By H. Leuner. (Pp. x + 275; 20 figures. DM. 69.60.) Berlin: Springer Verlag. 1962.

Dr. Leuner has been collecting his data and refining his theoretical position for five years. He believes that from the mental disturbance produced by lysergic acid diethylamide much illumination can be cast on the essential nature of schizophrenia. Drugs of this kind produce, according to him, qualitative functional changes, which make up a basal toxic syndrome whose main features are regression, disturbed consciousness and hallucinations, and heightened emotional excitability. He develops this theme in accordance with the concepts of his teacher, the late Professor Conrad, and offers a dynamic interpretation of the toxic phenomena he has observed, which he then applies to the interpretation of schizophrenia. There is here much reification of abstractions, as almost always in dynamic psychopathological studies.


The publisher's assertion, that until this book appeared there was no comprehensive study of the dementias of later life, is excessive, nevertheless a well-composed monograph such as this, neatly pruned of excessive detail, is useful to inexpert readers. It is, in effect, an extended textbook presentation, reinforced by the authors' clinical and neuropathological observations at the Hôpital Sainte-Anne. The first half of the book is devoted to Pick's and Alzheimer's forms of presenile dementia; in the second half, dementia due to cerebral arteriosclerosis and the senile dementias are described. The authors claim powers of diagnostic discrimination which are rather beyond those usually attained in this difficult group of disorders, and their review of previous work contains notable omissions; but the reader who wants a confident guide through unfamiliar country will be pleased with the vade mecum.


Sechenov (1829 to 1905) was described by Pavlov as the 'father of Russian physiology', and this presentation of some of his writings indicates that he anticipated many of to-day's problems. Thus in 1871 he wrote the article 'Who is to elaborate the problems of psychology, and how?' Here he stressed the importance of the physiological study of complex psychical phenomena. Regarding the need to make psychology a positive science he wrote: 'Only physiology can achieve this, because it alone holds the key to the truly scientific analysis of psychical activity'.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)


