Book reviews

THE NATURE OF PSYCHOTHERAPY By Karl Jaspers. Translated by J. Hoenig and M. W. Hamilton (Pp. x + 49. 7s. 6d.) Manchester: University Press. 1964. This little book consists of two translated extracts from Karl Jaspers' famous 'General psychopathology' which is, incidentally, wrongly called 'General psychotherapy' on the title page. Its separate publication may be deemed unnecessary for psychiatrists, to all of whom the contents of the parent volume should be familiar. Who, then, will read it? Those neurologists, perhaps, who remember Lord Brain's comment that '... since the neurologist is a doctor it falls to his lot to treat large numbers of patients suffering from psychological disorders. He cannot avoid, therefore, being a psychotherapist'. Also other physicians, in whatever branch of the profession, who are interested in these reflections on a universal theme by one of the most searching minds of our time.

PROGNOSTISCHE DIAGNOSE DER ENGODENEN PSYCHosen By K. Leonhard and S. von Trostorff (Pp. v + 132; 8 tables. 18s. 6d.) Jena: Veb Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1964. In this volume Professor Leonhard continues his neo-Kraepelinian studies of the functional psychoses, working on the assumption that '... die Diagnose zugleich eine Prognose sein soll'. Eschewing theory he and his co-author resort to the classical method of relating clinical features to outcome, drawing on his own case material for the purpose. Clinical discussion is becoming less fashionable in psychiatry and many younger clinicians could benefit from this mixture of keen observation, vigorous expression, and idiosyncratic classification.

CLINICAL ASPECTS OF REMEDIAL READING By Clifford J. Kolson and George Kalunger. (P. xii + 146. $5.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1963. The title of this book raises hopes that it will fill a great need in many countries, but unfortunately its contents are so orientated to the American way of health that there is not a great deal in it to interest those living outside the U.S.A.

The first part deals with the distinction between primary (i.e., congenital) and secondary reading disabilities, describing the symptoms usually associated with each. These are largely repeated in the second section, which goes further into the diagnostic differentiation and describes briefly some remedial techniques. The third section is devoted to describing and evaluating the reading clinics in the United States. Great emphasis is laid throughout on the importance of studying and treating each case on its own merits; of eliciting the difficulties each person has and the cues to which he responds most readily. As a result of this, the careful distinction made between primary and secondary disabilities becomes a little blurred and seems to lose a lot of its value. Moreover, the text is inclined to leap from evaluation to treatment and back again so often that it is not always easy to follow.

The authors criticize much of the research which has been carried out in this field and emphasize the need for more and better projects, but they do not put forward any ideas for future investigation.

In conclusion, some points are made in this text which, although not new, may be of value to practical workers in this field, but on the whole the book seems to be aimed much at those wishing to set up remedial reading clinics in the U.S.A.

Moyra Williams

BOOKS RECEIVED

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


A HANDBOOK ON ALCOHOLISM An Outline of the Cause, Treatment and Cure By H. O. Mackey. (Pp. 64. 2s 6d) Dublin: Fallon. 1964.


