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language. This is not a book to read but a 'lucky dip' can be rewarding and it is a valuable library aid.

J. A. SIMPSON


Dr. Jesez accepts the clinical separation of two types of hemifacial spasm, one following facial paralysis and one not (hémispasme facial primitif). In the first part of his thesis, he reviews the clinical knowledge and aetiological theories that have been put forward in the last hundred years, and the various ways in which they have been treated. In the second part he describes the clinical and simple electromyographic features of 52 cases of post-paralytic hemifacial spasm and 25 cases of 'primitive' hemifacial paralysis, and case details are to be found in the appendix. In the third part he discusses the differential diagnosis from other facial dyskinesias and from contracture.

Although there is a wealth of interesting information in this book, it is to be regretted that the facial nerve has not been studied in more detail, particularly from the aspect of its taste fibres and from the point of view of its motor nerve conduction velocity, which is of great importance in providing objective evidence of defective motor function, so extending, amplifying, and aiding the interpretation of the electromyographic findings in general.

A facial reflex (McCarthy's reflex) has been recorded, but its latency and its other features have not been measured, so that quantitative data on facial nerve and motor neurone function are not available from this study.

GEOFFREY RUSHWORTH


Until there is some advance in knowledge of the neuropsychology of learning, clinicians interested in memory are unlikely to achieve more than careful observation of amnesic patients and informed speculation. In this context, Professor Barbizet has added his own distinguished contribution to what is now a generally accepted corpus of opinion.

The second volume of 'Études sur Mémoire' includes theoretical considerations (the structural continuum of memory and its 'meta-structure'; the role of the frontal lobes in complex programming; the relationship between sensation and perception) and clinical case material (qualitative interpretations of the nature of memory impairment and confabulation in alcoholics and patients with severe brain injury).

Professor Barbizet gives a lucid exposition of his system of classifying the amnesias: those of hippocampal origin characterised by anterograde amnesia; the cortical amnesias, in which the immediate memory span is impaired but it is possible to retain what has been learned slowly and with difficulty; mixed or global derangements of memory. It is surprising that he accepts Miller's magical figure 7 as a 'physiological constant' in the adult memory span as the noun span for normal adults is nearer 5 (Talland, 1964). Or that there is no reference to neuropsychological data indicating the differential affects of left, as compared with right, frontal lobe damage (Milner, 1964). But this is to cavil at a work which elegantly illustrates current achievements in a very difficult field.


This uncommonly readable monograph reports the methods, observations, and conclusions of a survey made in a Puerto Rican slum between 1957 and 1960. The purpose of the study was to see how social forces impinge on schizophrenics and what effects their illness has on their families. Twenty families with a schizophrenic wife or husband were found in San Juan, an industrial city on the north coast of the island; the requirements were that the affected person should be between 20 and 39 years old, of low socio-economic status, and only recently in contact for the first time with a psychiatric clinic or other facility. A control group, free from schizophrenia but in most other respects like the schizophrenic group, provided data for statistical and other comparisons. The whole investigation was very carefully planned and successfully executed, against considerable odds.

The social characteristics of the schizophrenic families are intensively studied and their pre-morbid similarity to those of the normal group demonstrated; after marriage, however, at a recognizable point things went awry in these patients. Troubles mounted, and the manifest illness developed in one or both spouses. The relevance of this to the problem of aetiology and the way in which the couple coped or failed to cope with their tribulations are soberly and critically discussed; the help they extracted from spiritualism, for example, is convincingly explained in its therapeutic aspect.

The Achilles heel of the research is in the diagnostic criteria of schizophrenia. Full case records have not been included but from the illustrative material provided it can be inferred that a much more liberal concept of schizophrenia was used by the psychiatrists in Puerto Rico than would be acceptable here. This is, however, an almost inevitable state of affairs, until criteria for the diagnosis have become a matter of international agreement and consistent application. Apart from this defect, the study is a model of sociological thoroughness and clear presentation. Its findings are not startling but they are well founded in systematic and close observation; they suggest further lines of investigation and possibilities of preventive action.


Ever since he and R. E. L. Faris wrote their pioneering study of mental disorders in urban areas Professor Dunham has played a respected and active role as a student of the sociology of psychiatry. The present work reflects the experience and critical restraint arising from
his 30 years' acquaintance with the problems. He decided to confine the study to determining the incidence rate of schizophrenia in two sub-communities of Detroit and ascertaining the relation between incidence and social structure. He found the usual concentration of schizophrenics in social class V, and he concludes that this is not because one social class produces more schizophrenics but because in a competitive society the potential or actual schizophrenic is at a disadvantage economically and occupationally, and a process of social selection works continuously against him. In spite of some repetition this is a readable and sophisticated monograph. It is a pity that Dr. Dunham or his collaborators did not provide more clinical data in their report; it is clear that they took great pains to verify the diagnosis in every patient they included in the inquiry, but a few sample records might have assisted psychiatrists to see how far this would have tallied with their own diagnostic impressions.


In this six-year trial, four groups of chronic schizophrenic patients received varying forms of treatment for periods of six months each or more. Social therapy alone in a large mental hospital was given to one group, to another social therapy together with drugs (chlorpromazine and reserpine); a third and fourth group were similarly treated but in a university clinic with a rigorous programme of intensive care, a day hospital, and facilities for rehabilitation. The groups were roughly comparable. One of the groups served as its own control. The progress of the patients was evaluated at six, 12, 18, and 36 months after the beginning of the project. In brief, the investigators concluded that the drugs made a great difference, bringing about definite improvement in a fourth of the chronic patients, whereas an active milieu, with an atmosphere of encouragement, hope and social interaction, but without drugs, failed to produce improvement within six months. These findings are surprisingly at variance with results obtained in Britain (especially those of Wing and his colleagues, to whose publications the present authors do not refer). It may be surmised that, as Professor Greenblatt suggests, the abrupt intervention which plucked patients from the familiar surroundings in which they had lived for years and transferred them to another, alarmingly bustling hospital, may in many cases have had a traumatic rather than a stimulating and encouraging effect.


The authors give an account of the family relationships and transactions of 11 hospitalized schizophrenics: the apparent delusions and misinterpretations of the patients become more intelligible, and even reasonable, when regarded as the response to the family situation. A description is given of the 11 families, with the minimum possible interpretation and comment, which will follow in Volume II. It remains uncertain how far such interesting studies will illuminate the cause as well as the content of schizophrenia.


The bibliography of this volume begins, in defiance of alphabetical order, with four references to Marx, Engels, and Lenin: Russian references amount to 351 in number. However, there follows a total of 142 references to non-Russian papers and books, and the reader may, therefore, hope for a bridge between Russian and western psychology of a kind that is still all too rare. Some of these papers are briefly referred to in the text, for instance the psychomorphological concepts of Critchley, McFie, Piercy, and Zangwill, but other work that might be considered highly relevant, such as Wechsler's account of his intelligence scale, are not considered at all.

The contents of this book are much more restricted than the title suggests, and deal with the abnormalities displayed by patients with schizophrenia, epilepsy, cerebrovascular disease (including hypertension), brain trauma, mental deficiency, psychopathy, encephalitis, general paralysis of the insane, and manic-depressive psychosis, on tests of abstraction and of conceptual thinking, in particular an object classification test, an 'odd-man-out' test, a test involving the evocation or choice of pictograms, the interpretation of phrases and proverbs, a picture arrangement test, and a word association test. Patients with epilepsy, mental deficiency, and encephalitis tend to give 'concrete' solutions, patients with schizophrenia give 'illogical, capricious' solutions, whilst 'fluctuating' solutions were given characteristically by patients with cerebrovascular disorders and with brain trauma.

The work described by the author is a praiseworthy attempt to analyze various types of disorders of conceptual thinking, and to relate such types to clinical diagnosis. The method of scoring is somewhat obscure, and the allocation of an error to one or other type of disorder appears at times arbitrary. However, it is the lack of quantification, and the lack of an objective measure of general intellectual efficiency (probably due to ideological objections to the idea of I.Q.) to which the conceptual disorder may be related, that are the most disappointing aspects of an investigation which in other ways is most interesting, though not strikingly different from similar western work.


This book has run to four editions in seven years. Deservedly so. Covering the wide areas of personality development and assessment, human motivation, interaction with the environment and social groups, it is lucid, unpretentious and informative. Most medical students as well as nurses could read it with profit.

This book is an edited report of a symposium held in May 1965 at the University of New South Wales. The topics covered included the teaching of behavioural sciences, psychodynamics and psychotherapy, clinical psychiatry, neurology, and child psychiatry. As is inevitable in a publication of this nature the standard of the papers is very variable, and there is a tendency to repetition of certain points. The discussion sections tend to be inconclusive but many of the participants stressed the need to relate teaching programmes to the practical situation of providing adequate patient care with a very limited number of doctors, and not to plan schemes designed to produce a hypothetically perfect psychiatrist for work in ideal conditions.

The book stimulates thought on a topic which is of urgent interest in view of the present plans for the establishment in this country of a College of Psychiatry and the introduction of yet another higher qualification.


This book was deservedly well reviewed in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry after the appearance of its first edition in 1958. In an expanded second edition it now contains much new material and maintains the high standard set by its predecessor. In their preface the editors point out that mental deficiency '... is a meeting point of a very large number of disciplines: neurology, sociology, biochemistry, psychology, genetics, education, and psychiatry all have some part to play'. Workers in all these fields will find something to learn from one or other of the eight authorities who have contributed to this comprehensive survey of a major socio-medical subject.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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


AN INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOPATHOLOGY By D. Russell Davis. (P. 158; 16s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1966.


