Book reviews

vast monograph on neurophysiology and psychiatry: this is a masterly review, made all the more valuable by Professor Jung's familiarity with clinical psychiatry, acquired before he devoted himself to neurophysiology. Contributions by Joel Elkes (in English) on behavioural pharmacology, and by Johannes Brengelmann on conditioned reactions and learning theories conclude this weighty volume.

The whole five-volume work, now available, has no real counterpart in other countries or languages, and it provides an indispensable source of information relevant to psychiatry in its multiple research and clinical aspects.

AUBREY LEWIS

BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY. A Review of Recent Advances.

This slim volume contains a wealth of up-to-date information presented in readable form and with critical appraisal. The current status of schizophrenia in its genetic, psychosocial, and biochemical aspects is reviewed with the conclusion that here we have a condition which may result from a number of causes, present in varying degrees. The position with regard to manic-depressive illness is similarly reviewed with abundant references.

A further chapter is concerned with plans for future research in psychiatry with emphasis laid on the still unsatisfied need for an agreed nosology and accuracy of diagnosis, the development of community psychiatry, and the extension of biochemical and pharmacological studies. In particular the study of the mode of action of hallucinogens as a model for psychiatric illness is fully discussed.

A contrasting and particularly interesting chapter is that in which the theoretical basis of psychoanalysis is considered with the conclusion that the facts it has brought to light must be related to the newer concepts of the behavioural sciences, which should replace classical psychoanalytical theory.

The book is a valuable addition to current psychiatric literature and well worth its not unreasonable price.


The personalities loom a great deal larger in this lively book than the patterns. Thumbnail sketches of men somewhat arbitrarily selected as prominent in psychiatry or psychoanalysis during this century are followed by a short account of Benjamin Rush and Weir Mitchell, and a record of families who have produced a well-known psychiatrist in three or four successive generations. The biographical accounts are unconstrained and sometimes as trivial as a gossip-column. The chapters on 'Personality Patterns of Psychiatrists' hardly justify the title, but do contain interesting statistical and other data on Board examinations, professional societies, technical journals, and poems by psychiatrists (including one by Dr. Freeman himself). Apropos poetry, he makes the odd assertion that 'creativity is found in many, if not all physicians'. A final chapter enumerates psychiatrists who have committed suicide, and incidentally makes (on the authority of a well-known English psychiatrist) the quite erroneous statement that two professors of psychiatry in England committed suicide. In this final section, and elsewhere in the book, Dr. Freeman's misgivings about psychoanalysis are given fairly free play in spite of his efforts to keep, and show, a judicial balance.

Dr. Freeman made a prominent place for himself as the chief exponent of leucotomy in the United States while that treatment was in vogue; through this, and his valued activities in connection with the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, he is well placed to discuss with intimate knowledge many of the topics raised in his book. It is a pity that he has put his reminiscences and opinions in such a disjointed and casual form.


This book contains twenty-eight chapters, a number of which are based on articles which have been published elsewhere. The topics are varied, some being treated much more thoroughly than others. Dr. Harms is a man with strongly held views: witness the longest chapter which he entitles 'Carl Gustav Jung: Defender of Freud and the Jews'. At the same time his discussion of such early figures as Scheidemann, Tissot, Heinroth, and Beneke may well serve to stimulate the interest of many readers who are unfamiliar with the roots of contemporary psychiatric thinking.


This is a second edition of a book which has already made its mark. There is much to commend: the style is readable, the contents are surprisingly comprehensive, and the author has provided a large, wide-ranging list of references. Dr. Sim has a definite opinion on most topics and a jackdaw's eye for quotations. He will surely instruct and stimulate most of his readers, and provoke not a few to disagreement. Perhaps no more can be expected of a medium-sized, reasonably priced textbook of psychiatry.


The fashionable concept of neuropsychology is well illustrated by the work of the late Kurt Goldstein. This volume contains a group of essays in his memory and appropriately covers topics as diverse as 'Studies on the Inductive Influence of Head Posture on Various Functions in Unilateral Disequilibrium' and 'The Structure of Experimental Thought'. As is so often the case in a book of this type, the quality of the essays is patchy, but they should serve to stimulate interest in the contributions of an original scientist and philosopher. It is to be hoped that many readers will then go on to consult some of the 328

Even a glance at most textbooks of neurology and psychiatry reveals how sketchy is the information about stuttering, a condition which has been estimated to affect about 4% of children in this country. This volume—one of an international series of monographs in experimental psychology—reviews many of the more important experimental studies which have been carried out in recent years. The material is carefully chosen and clearly presented and should stimulate many clinicians to recognize the complex nature of this troublesome disability.


This, the seventh edition of Noyes’ well-known psychiatric textbook, appears five years after its predecessor. During the interim it has been challenged by the appearance of at least two heavier rivals in the United States, but it should continue to hold its own in the middle-weight range. The structure of the book is unchanged: Dr. Lawrence Kolb has written one wholly new chapter entitled ‘The Brain and Behaviour’ and has added new material to several others. English-speaking students who approve of the American approach to psychiatry will remain satisfied. The others now have the pick of several alternative British texts.


This book provides a wide survey of the psychological aspects of pain, with particular reference to the more recent literature. At the same time attention is given to relevant neurological topics such as so-called ‘insensitivity to pain’ and phantom limb pain. According to the author, conceptual problems of pain are important for its better understanding, and it should be recognized as a concept which involves several types of description of ‘pain behaviour’. These types of description include verbal reports and overt behaviour, general physiological responses, neurological studies, and affective states. While a different opinion from the author’s might be taken on a number of points, this book is most welcome. It is judicious, balanced, informative, beautifully clear, and very well produced.

H. MERSKEY

BOOKS RECEIVED

Books noticed here may also be reviewed later


FLUORESZENZANGIOGRAPHIE DER RETINA By A. Wessing. (Pp. xii + 212; illustrated. DM 84.) Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1968.


NOTICES

CONFERENCE ON THE LATE EFFECTS OF HEAD INJURY

The Research Group on Head Injuries of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies and World Federation of Neurology and the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness of the National Institutes of Health are sponsoring a Conference on the Late Effects of Head Injury, to be held on 6-7 March 1969 at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Inquiries to the Secretary of the Research Group, Dr. William F. Caveness, Building 31, Room 8A-03, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ELECTROSLEEP AND ELECTROAESTHESIA

The Second International Symposium on ElectroSleep and Electroanaesthesia will be held in Graz, Austria, in September 1969. Details may be obtained from the Symposium Secretariat, Chirurgische Universitätsklinik, 8036 Graz, Austria.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

The Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, 13-17 April 1969, and will celebrate the centennial of Harvey Cushing’s birth in that city. Details may be obtained from the Secretary, Dr. B. B. Whitcomb, 85 Jefferson Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103, U.S.A.
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