Book reviews

is racy, often dramatic, frequently funny, and always the atmosphere is warm. It is so very easy to imagine the Dublin scene of the 1930s and to accept the characters of the cases shown.

Again and again the emphasis is on clinical observation, and perhaps most of all on the patient's history. Perhaps it is timely that these events, first published in 1956, should come to light again in 1969, and remind us that, in an age of haste, better physicians should take more time over, and greater care with, their patient's history.

The publishers claim that recent advances have been added, and it could be argued that the sections involving the treatment of epilepsy, and on the management of aneurysms should have been updated. But, possibly, this would have disturbed the historical perspective of the book. It is an account of a neurologist's experiences, and there will be no reader who cannot add to his own knowledge from it.

Of course it is not a textbook, but rather a series of narratives which achieve the rare distinction of combining enjoyment with education. It makes delightful reading. IAN D. MELVILLE


In the first part of this book the author states her beliefs of what mature man can and ought to be and on which she bases her therapeutic approach to neurosis. She holds existentialist beliefs which are irrational in the sense that the basic concepts such as 'person', 'identity', 'openness', 'freedom', transcendence defy clear definition.

They have an evocative character and their meaning is clarified by circling round them and looking at them in a variety of contexts. In neurosis man has failed to come to terms with the basic conditions of existence—namely, time (past present, and future), death and finiteness, guilt and sexuality. Instead of being in touch with his endowment, as it was shaped by the human influences of his childhood, and with his ability to transcend his past within the basic condition of existence, the neurotic becomes a-historic, alienated, and restricted to one-sided approaches to life. To base psychotherapy on such a philosophical belief in what mature man can be seems thoroughly legitimate to me. In spite of Freud's attempt to define scientifically what man is, our orientation in the world still depends on more than scientific thinking alone, and Freud's hostility to philosophy only lets in by the back door a pessimistic philosophy of the isolated and stoic individual.

Dr. Herzog-Dürck describes four basic forms of neurotic conditions: the schizoid, characterized by 'Daseinsunlust' which could best be translated into English by Kierkegaard's term of 'despairingly wanting not to be a self'; the depressive, characterized by 'Weltangst', fear of the world; the obsessional, characterized by 'Menschensatzungen', control of life by human rules and regulations; the hysterical, characterized by the supremacy of the ego. She illustrates these four forms by two case histories, each of the therapy of highly intelligent and educated patients between the ages of 28 and 45 years. These case histories are vividly and impressively described. The book ends with some theoretical discussions on problems of treatment, such as anamnesis, transference and countertransference, dream analysis, analytic relationship, the concept of 'cure'.

If we admit as inevitable that each psychotherapist starts from his philosophical belief of what man is, it is also inevitable that the emphasis on the various aspects of life will differ between various therapists and that the depth of understanding of the various neurotic conditions varies. The author is particularly good in her understanding of schizoid and hysterical conditions, while her attempt to comprehend compulsive and obsessional neuroses as over-valuation of human rules and regulations is less convincing. This scarcely detracts, however, from the favourable impression of the whole book, which is beautifully written and expresses the wide experience and depth of thought of the author. It is to be hoped that a translation will make it accessible to a wider English speaking public. J. SCHORSTEIN


This book consists of 13 papers published over the past 10 years and reprinted together with an introduction by the editor. They represent the psychological rather than the organic approach to schizophrenic language, but within that field they are varied, though almost entirely confined to contributions from the United States. The papers originally appeared in accessible journals. Only those working within this field can decide whether it will be cheaper to buy this book or to photostat those particular articles that appeal to them.

NOTICES

HYDROCEPHALUS AND SPINA BIFIDA

The Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida is holding its Fourteenth Annual Meeting at Neurochirurgische Klinik der Universität Freiburg, West Germany on 25 to 27 June 1970. Details may be obtained from Dr. A. L. Woolf, The Midland Centre for Neurosurgery and Neurology, Department of Pathology, Holly Lane, Smethwick, Warley, Worcester.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEURORADIOLOGY

The 7th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Neuroradiology was held jointly with The American Association of Neurological Surgeons on 16 to 18 April 1969 in Cleveland, Ohio. This was the Cushing Centennial meeting appropriately held in the birthplace of the neurosurgeon, Harvey Cushing, for whom The American Association of Neurological Surgeons was originally named. Forty-three neuroradiological papers were presented at the various sessions and a number of scientific exhibits was on display. Details of future meetings may be obtained from the new Secretary, Dr. Eugene V. Leslie, American Society of Neuroradiology, Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital, 462 Grider Street, Buffalo, New York 14215, U.S.A.
PROBLEME MENSCHLICHER REIFUNG: PERSON UND IDENTITÄT IN DER PERSONALEN PSYCHOTHERAPIE

J. Schorstein

J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1969 32: 494
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.32.5.494

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/32/5/494.1.citation

Email alerting service

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/