standing of schizophrenia and other chronic mental disorders, while not yet greatly increased, would seem to be on the verge of being enlightened. Such enlightenment will, however, come, from basic studies on brain function, and it is against such a background that all recent information about brain disease must be measured. A book of this sort is hard work to read, but nonetheless very valuable for being made generally available. It is in addition a good source of recent work in this area.

J. B. CAVANAGH


This is a short monograph from Aarhus, Denmark, in which the experience from 72 cases with ‘isoelectric EEGs’ is reviewed and eight of the cases are presented in detail. In the context of the organ donor problem, the author’s criteria of brain death are probably the best that can be devised in the present state of knowledge. In summary they are: (1) that the nature of the brain damage must be fully documented; (2) the patient must be in deep coma—that is, fixed dilated pupils, completely unreactive to all stimuli, no spontaneous respiration; (3) there should be no response to the caloric test; and (4) the EEG (recorded at 5v V per cm 1 sec time constant) should be isoelectric. Points, 2, 3, and 4 must be constant in two sets of observations with an interval of at least 24 hours. These criteria cover the fact that rare cases of barbiturate poisoning, anoxia, encephalitis, and hypothermia are now recorded in which quite unexpected degrees of recovery have occurred after periods of isoelectric EEG, and they thus virtually limit potential donors to cases of cerebral trauma and other known neurosurgical disorders. This publication provides a useful addition to the literature on an important problem.


The satisfactory management of a child with cerebral palsy presents a formidable challenge to skill and resources. There are almost as many theories of treatment as there are therapists and it is sometimes difficult for the clinician to distinguish between them. The Results of Treatment in Cerebral Palsy presents a series of essays devoted to the currently fashionable regimes, and the methods available for measuring their effectiveness. All the authors stress the importance of a full clinical and functional assessment before embarking upon treatment, and describe methods for quantifying the results. In general, these are expressed as a developmental quotient. Repeated examinations throughout the course of treatment reflect any improvements by an increasing quotient.

Some broad guide lines about the likely outcome of treatment are given but even here there is disagreement. It is generally accepted that children with a high IQ and those who are strongly motivated get most benefit from treatment and that spasticity usually responds better than athetosis. Consideration is given to the ‘economic practicability’ of treatment. This is an important concept for those who are responsible for the selection of patients and for the deployment of the limited numbers of trained personnel.

This book is to be welcomed as a stimulus to more effective therapy, for the standardization of the test material, and for the development of a reliable predictive index.

I. T. DRAPER


This slim monograph documents a detailed research into the early neurological and psychomotor development of a sample of mongols in an area south of London. Although the book is clearly written, its presentation still bears the style of the thesis of which it forms the substance. The fragmenting of the book into 22 sub-chapters is irritating. The book really falls into three areas—a precise methodology; a description of the developmental examination of the subjects at four periods in the first 10 months of life; and an analysis of the results by comparison with standards in the literature (scattered throughout the book), and by computer.

The methodology is impeccably delineated, and the sample of mongols is carefully demonstrated as being representative, displaying, by choice of reference, an authoritative knowledge of the syndrome. The items of the neurological examination of the subjects are clearly, necessarily, defined and the sources of the norms adequately stated. The photographs, tables, and histograms are correctly illustrative and appropriately placed.

The book presumes that the reader is familiar, not only with developmental paediatrics, but also with psychology and statistics. A considerable part of the book is concerned with statistics and comprehension requires a knowledge of analysis of variance. The psychological instruments are vital to the thesis; yet terms like DIQ, DMQ, and ‘low Piaget score’ creep into the text undefined and unreferenced. It cannot be assumed that the clinician will be versed in the sensori-motor patterns described by Piaget. Although the Nancy Bayley scale is repeatedly mentioned, one cannot find its reference, either in the book, or even in the sixth (current) Mental Measurements Year Book. Is this a revision of the Bayley California Scales? The psychological measures ought to have been fully explained in the appendix, which might have been composed in a more illustrative and imaginative manner to balance the text.

Wollman’s ‘Down’s Syndrome: a reference bibliography’ cites 692 references but does not even index development. This monograph, therefore, is a valuable addition to the literature of mongolism, and furthers our knowledge of developmental paediatrics. Its results show that neurological and psychological tests become more stabilized and definitive as the mongol infant grows, and confirm the value of these tests in the developmental assessment, especially around the tenth month of life. Such scholarly research contributes to consolidating and integrating developmental paediatrics and developmental psychology. Dr. Cowie does not maintain (wisely) that the early developmental tests which she describes have predictive validity, but she does show that marked deviation from the norms on these neurological and
psychological tests, and more specifically the degree of hypotonia, may serve as a guide to the future development of the mongol.

It is difficult to judge just what will be the demand for this book of 108 pages, priced at 60s. It will certainly find a place in the library of the research worker and developmental paediatrician.

W. I. FRASER


Since Kraepelin's historic account there have been surprisingly few comprehensive accounts of this disorder. Professor Lewis's work in the '30s dealt mainly with depression and most recent works have been concerned with special aspects—for example, classification, biochemistry, or genetics. This small, but rather expensive, paper-back book attempts to survey a wider field and deals with epidemiology, clinical features, genetics, biological, social, and psychological aspects of aetiology as well as treatment. Embedded in this review is a compendium of a number of studies published by this group in the past few years. Based on the department of psychiatry of Washington University in St. Louis they have established themselves as some of the foremost exponents of the neo-Kraepelinian approach. They have defined a specific population of patients who have suffered from both mania and depression—that is, the bipolar psychoses of Perris—and have carried out a meticulous and systematic inquiry. This is particularly strong on the genetic side and the authors have gone a long way towards establishing that the condition may be carried by an X-linked dominant gene of incomplete penetrance. They have been fortunate in locating two families in whom both colour blindness of protan type and manic depressive disease occurred, and they found evidence to suggest a linkage between these two disorders. They are to be congratulated on filling an important gap in the psychiatric literature with an eminently readable book.

RAYMOND LEVY


The problem of the interaction between mind and body has exercised many philosophers, but fewer scientists. Dr. Black is well known as the author of several well-controlled experiments on the effect of hypnosis on allergic phenomena, and in this volume he brings together in easy style evidence from a variety of fields on his subject. Energy is involved in bodily processes, but not apparently in mental processes, which are affected by the flow of information. However, some bodily processes are affected by the flow both of energy and of information, and the informational aspect of certain molecules—for example, RNA—is their most important feature. This response to information provides an important common feature of mind and matter. This is a stimulating and attractive book, with the unusual and valuable feature that the author has applied an experimental approach in a field more usually occupied by speculation.


The three essays in this slim volume are taken from a larger work entitled Psychiatrie der Gegenwart (Present-day Psychiatry.) The avowed aim of the contributors is to bridge the gap between Continental and Anglo-Saxon psychiatry and, since psychiatry as every other branch of knowledge is rooted in philosophy, to bring together the divergent streams of philosophies which have been developed on the Continent and in Anglo-Saxon countries.

Professor Strauss deals critically with the continental existentialist trends in philosophy as applied to psychiatry and he finds them unsatisfactory because existentialism, according to him, does not take into account the whole organic structure of man. His theoretical critique is not convincing, possibly because it had to be compressed into a few pages and does not sufficiently take into account the forerunners of today's existentialist position and its multitude of present exponents.

Natanson's phenomenological approach is valuable, for it raises more questions than it answers and makes stimulating reading.

Henri Ey's position of an organo-dynamic conception of the structure, nosography and pathogenesis of mental disease is well known. It derives for the most part from Herbert Spencer and Hughlings Jackson's attitude to organic nervous disorder.

I doubt whether the bridge has been constructed or the gap closed. It is important, however, that each branch of knowledge, in particular psychology, should forever be seeking for its philosophical roots else it ends up in simple technology, a process which is well under way, if not completed. In that respect the book is well worthy of serious attention, but I do not think that the individual psychiatrist and the individual patient will gain much from it, except this: that they may be forced to re-examine their own individuality.

J. SCHORSTEIN

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL GLOSSARY OF ANTICONVULSANTS

The Epilepsy Literature Project, sponsored by the International Bureau and the International League Against Epilepsy, has been compiling an International Glossary of Anticonvulsants. Copies are available at no charge from Mrs. Ellen R. Grass, President, International Bureau for Epilepsy, 77 Reservoir Road, Quincy, Mass. 02170, U.S.A.

CORRECTION

The reproduction was faulty of Fig. 10 in Dr. L. W. Duchen's article 'Hereditary motor end-plate disease in the mouse: light and electron microscopic studies' (p. 246, April 1970) and a loose-leaf correction is enclosed in this issue.
A STUDY OF THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF MONGOLS

W. I. Fraser

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