

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

**MANIC DEPRESSIVE ILLNESS** By George Winokur, Paula J. Clayton and Theodore Reich. (Pp. +186; 59s.). Mosby: St. Louis, 1969.

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

**MIND AND BODY** By Stephen Black. (Pp. 318; illustrated; 63s.) Kimber: London, 1969.

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.

**PSYCHIATRY AND PHILOSOPHY** By Erwin W. Strauss

Maurice Natanson and Henri Ey. Edited by Maurice Natanson. (Pp. 161; DM.32). Springer: Berlin, 1969.

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 towards 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 as a simple technology, a process which is well under way but 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. Duchon'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.