conduct of this system, from its inception at the beginning of 1963, and in this volume he and fellow-members of his team describe the information which they accumulated during the next five years of operation of the system.

What is more important, they demonstrate, in successive chapters, the uses to which this accumulated information can be put in order to raise questions—and sometimes even to answer questions—about the incidence, prevalence and outcome of different types of psychiatric disorder in a defined population. In other words, as the book's title indicates, their main concern is with the epidemiology of mental illness.

Dr. Baldwin is well aware, however, of the fact that data based on specialist-treated illness alone may give quite misleading data on incidence and prevalence. He looks forward hopefully to the day when these data can be supplemented by information about psychiatric disorders which do not go beyond the GP's surgery.

Meanwhile, much can be learned from the careful analysis of 'psychiatrist-treated patients'. Successive chapters of this book deal with variations in the prevalence of different psychiatric conditions, in different social classes; 'social drift' and mental illness; illness in other family members, and specifically in the spouses of psychiatric patients.

Two later chapters review the incidence of psychiatric disorders and deviant behaviour in children, and in adolescents. In each of these analyses, the authors are careful to point out that differences in treatment rates may be due to differential use of the services, rather than to differences in morbidity in the populations under review.

Not least of the advantages of a cumulative case index is the opportunity it gives for studies of the 'natural history' of particular psychiatric disorders in individuals, and in families. This type of analysis becomes more productive, the longer the span of years covered. Dr. Baldwin does not minimize the difficulties which have to be overcome in order to ensure that the register is complete, and accurate: but his book shows the rewards which can be obtained as a result of sustained effort in this field.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

DIE TRANSDURALE ECHOENZEPHALOGRAPHIE. By H. R. Miller. (Pp. 162; illustrated; Fr. 48.) Hans Huber: Bern. 1971.


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