DEPRESSION AND ITS TREATMENT By John Pollitt. (Pp. x + 114. 24s.) Heineman, London. 1965.

DEPRESSIVE STATES. A PHARMACOTHERAPEUTIC STUDY By A. Hordern, in collaboration with C. G. Burt and N. F. Holt. (Pp. xvi + 166; 25 tables. \$7.50.) Springfield. Illinois: Thomas. 1965.

The cascade of books, articles, and reports of symposia on depression continues unabated. A few of the articles and symposia bring some new findings, but hardly any of the books justify their existence in this way. Dr. Pollitt's manual purports to introduce a new concept of classification, based on a new physiological theory; but what he tells us about the 'functional shift' and its implications hardly fulfils this promise. Dr. Hordern's book contains two main divisions: one reviewing the familiar literature of depression, especially in regard to its treatment, and the other describing the details and outcome of a clinical trial designed to compare amitriptyline and imipramine. Most of the latter material had already been reported in the journals. The relatively novel feature in his work is contained in the brief chapter on 'factor and discriminant function analyses'. It is questionable whether these statistical methods are necessary and appropriate to the elucidation of depressive phenomena, but in any case the outcome of the exercise was uninformative.

AUBREY LEWIS

INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHIATRY By B. C. Bosselman, I. M. Rosenthal, and M. Schwarz. (Pp. 139. \$6.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Chas. C. Thomas. 1965.

Although there are now several good short texts of general psychiatry for the medical student, there is a paucity of suitable accounts of behavioural and personality development, and the authors' attempt to meet this need is welcome. Problems of feeding, aggression, self-identification, socialization, and crises of adolescence are among the topics discussed with ample illustrations from case histories. Useful summaries are included at the end of each chapter. Although psychoanalytic concepts receive the main emphasis, other viewpoints are given attention. The authors rightly emphasize that as parental care influences the child's temperamental development so the child's temperamental characteristics in turn partly determine the attitudes of the parents. The child's growth and development are seen in the context of an interaction between the child's individual endowment, family milieu, and cultural background. In view of this it is surprising to find no reference to some of the main longitudinal investigations, especially the New York study which has done much to develop these ideas. Throughout the book, descriptions tend to be rather general and it would be helpful to know more about how often various processes occur rather than to be given an account of the variety of things that *may* happen to the child. Similarly, even in an introductory text it would be useful to have a more explicit distinction between what is proven and what is

supposition, together with references in the text. Nevertheless, the authors provide a reasonably balanced account and many will find the book a useful introduction to developmental psychiatry.

MICHAEL RUTTER

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AND THE LAW Edited by R. Slovenko. (Pp. xxi + 880. \$19.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Thomas. 1964.

This massive work is composed of 49 essays on the various forms of deviant sexual behaviour, mainly by psychiatrists but in 10 cases by lawyers or sociologists. The subject is interpreted broadly, with essays on divorce, sexual deviation in non-sexual offences, prostitution, abortion, unmarried mothers, etc.; the articles on these peripheral subjects are often more stimulating than the others. The psychiatric views expressed are almost entirely psychoanalytic, and a great deal of space is devoted to the psychodynamic theories of aetiology. Some essays have little to say about incidence, social variations, criminal or psychological prognosis; others are more comprehensive. Although the volume, in spite of its size, shows how little is known about the origin and treatment of sexual disorders, it is hardly accurate to imply that knowledge has stood still in the 50 years since Freud and his immediate followers enlivened the scene. Only an occasional paragraph is devoted to the work of Kinsey, or to the newer biological, epidemiological, and criminological studies in the U.S.A., leaving aside important European work. Only a few short but interesting chapters are devoted to the great cultural variations in sex behaviour, which are presumably central to the problem of the law.

On the whole, this is a disappointing book, limited and old-fashioned in outlook, but many essays are original and interesting, and it conveniently condenses a great deal of information. Set beside the recent book on sex offenders from the Kinsey Institute and the Cambridge Institute's study, it will provide the forensic psychiatrist or lawyer with a comprehensive review.

T. C. N. GIBBENS

DIE HOMOSEXUALITÄT BEIM MANN. VON DOZENT By K. Freund. 2te erweiterte auflage. (Pp. 321; 19 figures; 54 tables.) Leipzig. Hirzel Verlag: 1965.

The first edition of this work was reviewed here in 1962. The present edition takes account of papers subsequently published, describes a recently developed simple method of analysing sexual deviations, adds a section on biological characteristics and transvestism, and enlarges the survey of endocrine and cerebral findings which are relevant to the questions of pathology and aetiology. The book is a well organized repository of medical knowledge about homosexuality, to which the author has made notable original contributions.

AUBREY LEWIS