BOOK REVIEWS


From 1949 to 1953 Dr. Karpman arranged for a symposium on juvenile delinquency to be held each year at the Annual Meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. The proceedings, previously reported with some curtailment in the journal of the Association, are now collected and published in full. They make a large and wordy book, purposely illustrated with very crude drawings, which faithfully reflects the mixture of confidence and ignorance that unfortunately still characterizes the approach by child psychiatrists to the alarming problems of juvenile delinquency. The extent to which psychopathic personality can be held responsible for children's misconduct is a recurring theme in the book: the discussions of it throw disconcerting light on the possible outcome of those compulsory measures for dealing with psychopathic adolescents which the new Mental Health Act now provides in Great Britain.


The last edition of this book appeared in 1947. Little has been learnt about hysteria in the intervening years, and the changes in this latest edition are correspondingly few. A case history is introduced to illustrate what the author calls a "cascade effect" in which the stimulus of an emotional shock spreads outward and releases a series of severe changes of a somatic as well as a psychological nature. Imu, a condition probably identical with Latah, is described; and a short note added on the way the vegetative nervous system is affected by that voluntary increase in reflex responses which Kretschmer postulates in hysteria. The book exemplifies the curiously indeterminate nature of clinical conceptions of hysteria and its psychopathology.


Dr. Barbara, who is himself a stutterer, is a devoted adherent of the psychoanalytic theory and practice developed by the late Dr. Karen Horney. His book is a sustained explanation of stuttering in terms of Dr. Horney's theory of personality. His considerable experience of treating this irksome handicap is not turned to full account, as only one chapter, out of the 17 that make up the book, is concerned directly with treatment, and the author here absolves himself from detailed description of methods. He does not give any data enabling the reader to judge the success of treatment carried out along the broad lines he advocates, and all in all his book is disappointingly vague.


This is a book for physicists interested in cybernetics and the theory of communication. Philosophical, psychological, and linguistic questions are discussed in a speculative way, and particular attention paid to the concept of entropy. Two-fifths of the book is taken up with an obscurely written foreword by Dr. Muses.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books received.)


The Pathology of Tumours of the Nervous System. By Dorothy S. Russell and L. J. Rubinstein, with a chapter on "Tissue Culture in Relation to Tumours of the Nervous System" by C. E. Lumsden. (Pp. iii + 318; 286 figures. 70s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1959.


BOOK REVIEWS


*Insulin Treatment in Psychiatry,* Edited by Max Rinkel and Harold E. Himwich. (Pp. xxxii + 386; illustrated. $5.00.) New York: Philosophical Library. 1959.


*Surgery in World War II: Neurosurgery,* Vol I. Prepared and published under the direction of Major General S. B. Hays; Editors for Neurosurgery R. Glen Spurling and Barnes Woodhall, with the assistance of Elizabeth M. McFetridge. (Pp. xix + 466; 130 figures. $5.00.) Washington, D.C.: Walter Reed Army Medical Center. 1958.
