

The second Bel-Air Symposium held at the University of Geneva in September, 1964, was devoted to the subject of deprivation syndromes. Some 25 distinguished physiologists, psychologists, and neuropsychiatrists from Europe and North America participated.

It might seem artificial to bring together topics as different as the experimental physiology of de-afferentation and the psychiatric effects of social and emotional deprivation, but the case for doing this is strongly argued and the quality of individual contributions is extremely high. Of the 10 papers presented, five dealt with experimental studies and the remainder with clinical problems. Although it was not possible to publish the discussion which took place at the end of each paper, participants were later asked to summarize their comments and these form a valuable addition to the book.

**HYSTERIA: THE HISTORY OF A DISEASE** By I. Veith. (Pp. xvi + 301; illustrated. 59s. 6d.) London: The University of Chicago Press. 1965.

'History', said Karl Jaspers of hysteria, 'reveals the basic phenomenon as the use of a mechanism which is in itself a constant (and in a minority of people appears as illness or hysterical giftedness) and which is pressed into the service of vastly differing cultural movements, aims and ideas.' For this reason the student of the condition must know something about social history as well as neurology, psychiatry, and general medicine: witchcraft, possession, and psychic epidemics take their place alongside dissociation, glove and stocking anaesthesia, and pseudo-cyesis. Dr. Veith has done well to compress so much relevant material into her book and to the non-specialist reader her chapter on 'Magic and the Supernatural in the Far East' will have the added attraction of the unfamiliar.

Perhaps, though, she is optimistic in suggesting that hysteria has run its course with the advent of psychoanalysis and that '... it was the intensified understanding of the cause of hysteria by leading psychiatrists during this century that contributed to the near-disappearance of the disease'. It is true that at the present time the diagnosis of hysteria is out of fashion in western medicine. It does not appear at all in the standard classification of mental disorders of the American Psychiatric Association and at least one prominent British psychiatrist has argued against its retention as a clinical label. But volcanoes can be deceptively quiescent and the varied and complex hysterical phenomena which have so often accompanied the explosions of human history in the past may well re-emerge in what is likely to be a troubled future.

**AFFECT, COGNITION AND PERSONALITY. EMPIRICAL STUDIES**  
Edited by S. Tomkins and Carroll E. Izard. (Pp. xii + 464; illustrated. 60s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1966.

The central place of emotion in psychopathology is uncontested, but little experimental work has been done to enlarge our precise knowledge. When Gustav Störing's contribution to the *Abderhalden Handbuch* in 1931 is compared with current studies of affect, it is evident that there has been lamentably little advance.

Dr. Tomkins, the moving spirit in the Symposium published here, puts forward in his Introduction the propositions that affects are the primary motive forces of man, that they are not private and visceral but communicated through facial responses, and that to measure them it is essential that their impact on cognition be measured also. He deplors the disproportionate attention usually bestowed on anxiety and anger, to the neglect of excitement, distress, contempt, shame, and surprise.

The contributors have diverse interests, but a common preference for measurement and objectivity; their papers are poorly integrated, but this, as Gardner Murphy points out in the Discussion, reflects the present state of research in affect. One of the most stimulating papers is that of Paul Ekman on communication through non-verbal behaviour; and one of the least consonant with the rest is C. E. Izard's on personal growth through group experience.

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**GROUP THERAPY IN CHILDHOOD PSYCHOSIS** By R. W. Speers and C. Lansing. (Pp. xviii + 186. 38s.) The University of North Carolina Press. 1965.

The greater part of this book is taken up with a descriptive account of an heroic attempt to treat five young psychotic children by a form of group psychotherapy which was carried on for a total of 828 hours over four years. Therapeutic groups were also organized for the mothers and the fathers of these children. The authors believe sufficiently in their activities to have started another project along similar lines. Unfortunately they provide the uncommitted reader with more evidence of their enthusiasm than of the therapeutic value of their undertaking.

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The International Science Press Inc., New York. This journal is planned to select and reprint significant articles from the world psychiatric literature, with summaries in six languages. Following each reprint are invited critical comments by other leading authorities in that field: since this is the sole excuse for reprinting articles already in the main readily accessible, these comments should be longer and invited from a wider field. There is one serious criticism: the reviewer selected one paper by Bleuler) from the number submitted for review (I, no. 4), and found that the original paper had not been reprinted, but that alterations had been made, mainly in phraseology, but in one instance altering the sense. This is inexcusable.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

**DAS EXOGENE PARANOID-HALLUZINATORISCHE SYNDROM**  
By U. H. Peters. (Pp. vi + 106. Sw.F./DM 23.)  
Basel and New York: S. Karger AG. 1967.

**THE ROOTS OF THE EGO** By C. Frankenstein. (Pp. xi + 286. 62s.) Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Co. 1966.