The sections on mothers and children in hospital will have wide appeal, as will that on the selection and training of nurses and relationships within the nursing hierarchy. It is not all of the selection procedures which will commend themselves to those choosing nurses for general training, but awareness of some of the problems will help to make those engaged in this task more critical of the time-honoured methods commonly employed.

The book, therefore, will have a wider appeal than to those immediately engaged in psychiatric nursing and could be read with profit by all engaged in nursing and all concerned with relationships in small communities.

JOHN MARSHALL

THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS IN THE COMMUNITY.


Britain may well claim to be one of the world leaders in community medicine, and psychiatry to be the leader in the field of medicine. This small book records a symposium held in London in November 1967. The speakers combine idealism with realism, and tell of their own difficulties and successes in this difficult area: Baker (Banstead) on psychiatric nursing in the community; Crompton (Broadgate) on drugs; Early (Glenside) on the role of industry; Freeman (Salford) on the structure of the local authority and hospital service; May (Ministry of Health) on organization and efficiency; Silverman (Blackburn) on a comprehensive psychiatric service centred on a general hospital; and Whitehead (speaking of his work at Severalls) on the care of the aged. Each contribution is lively, stimulating, and informative, and the book can be unreservedly recommended as an introduction to a field of growing importance.

In parenthesis, the reviewer has developed over the years a facility in reading medical journals without seeing the advertisements; the sponsorship and organization of this symposium by E. R. Squibb and Sons together with the National Association for Mental Health, will keep the name of one drug firm favourably in his mind.

COMBINED EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS


The book begins by reviewing the pharmacology of ethanol. Although this is primarily a reference book, the large amount of material is clinically and lucidly presented and each chapter has a helpful summary. The second portion of the book is devoted to the effects of ethanol when taken in combination with other substances. These vary from anticoagulants to antifreeze and a surprisingly large number of commonly used drugs have a different action when taken in combination with alcohol. There is a full bibliography and index.

Although on a very restricted topic, the book is admirably produced and contains much of interest to pharmacologists and physicians. It will be a useful reference book for those with toxicological or forensic problems.