

Dr. Ledermann's book is too condensed to be easily read, and hardly does justice to its wide scope. One just cannot deal with Kierkegaard's thought and influence in a few sentences, and Heidegger's ontology remains opaque if it is presented in one page. Jaspers and Martin Buber make uneasy bedfellows (personal communication by Jaspers to the reviewer in 1950), but Dr. Ledermann has had to cram them together without much discrimination.

In the end the author argues that all types of philosophy have their place in medicine: 'The existential-phenomenological and the deterministic objective approach are both essential in medicine.' It is this catholic view which makes Dr. Ledermann advocate both the entire freedom of the patient—as subject—and forces him to conclude that even leucotomy may be advised which (if 'successful' (J.S.)) denies the patient his freedom and makes him completely into an object.

The acutely ethical problems facing medicine—abortion, euthanasia, the prolongation of life by all means, and organ transplantation—are not mentioned.

The medical reader who comes to this book without a sound prior grounding in philosophy will be hard pressed to follow Dr. Ledermann; to the philosopher it has little to offer.

Since the author precedes the book with a quotation from Goethe's *Faust* this review might end with another quote from the same source '*Und bin so klug, als wie zuvor*' (And am as instructed, as before). J. SCHORSTEIN

BEHAVIOUR THERAPY IN CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY By V. Meyer and Edward S. Chesser. (Pp. 288; 15s.) Penguin Books. 1970.

In under 15 years behaviour therapy has evoked a large number of papers in widely scattered journals. The subject is ripe for texts and they are appearing in increasing numbers, reflecting in their variable quality the literature they review. Among them it is a pleasure to welcome a paperback which is a remarkable bargain. In less than 300 pages the authors have provided a balanced review of the subject, sufficiently comprehensive for all but the specialist in the field.

In introductory chapters those with a medical background are helped by a lucid presentation of learning theory, while the psychology student is given a succinct account of psychiatric classification and diagnosis. The techniques and results of behaviour therapy are considered separately, followed by chapters on current research and clinical applications. Original work is quoted constantly and the references run to 29 pages.

In a contentious area uncritical enthusiasm and undue scepticism are avoided, and the authors have produced a readable book without over-simplification. At the price it must be required reading for all psychiatrists and psychologists in training, and augurs well for the future of Penguin's Modern Psychology series.

I. M. INGRAM

TOPICAL PROBLEMS IN PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY VOL. 10 Current Research in the Neurosciences. Edited by H. T. Wycis. (Pp. xvi + 208; illustrated; 118s.) Karger: Basel. 1970.

This volume has been produced in honour of the 50th anniversary of graduation of Professor Ernest A. Spiegel, who was born in 1895 in Vienna and graduated there in 1918. In 1930 he moved to Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Professor Spiegel has made notable contributions to neuropathology and neurophysiology and his work on the reticular formation and localization of function of the central part of the autonomic system were important observations. He produced the first stereotaxic atlas of the human brain and could be described as a father of stereotaxic surgery.

At this stage in his work he was involved in the development of stereotaxic treatment for intractable pain and for extrapyramidal disorders as well as other diseases. Such, indeed, have been Professor Spiegel's contributions, that a volume in his tribute is very justified.

With a progenitor of such distinction this volume is a disappointment. One feels that the editor should have delineated his requirements more closely. It is a pity that Parkinsonism and its treatment receives little mention, in view of Professor Spiegel's interest. A book of review chapters would have had a wide appeal, and some such chapters are present; those by Jancke *et al.* on 'Vestibular Nystagmus' and Professor Stengel on 'Pain and Psychological Illness' can be singled out, but too many of the papers give original work of limited interest and they would have been better contributed as papers to journals.

The lack of balance in the structure of the work might have been mitigated by an index, but no index is included. It is difficult to recommend this book at the price.

RALPH H. JOHNSON

PSYCHIATRIC DICTIONARY By Leland E. Hinsie and Robert J. Campbell. 4th edition. (Pp. ix + 816; £7.) Oxford University Press: New York and London. 1970.

The esoteric vocabulary of psychiatry and especially of psycho-analysis with its Alice-in-Wonderland approach to semantics makes it desirable to have access to a dictionary of this type. In this new edition of a standard reference book there has been a critical examination of the older definitions in the light of recent developments, leading to elimination of 500 entries, substantial modification or expansion of more than 1,000, and inclusion of 1,400 new entries. The publishing house is transatlantic and the spelling is American.

NOTICES

SOCIETY OF BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY Announcement of three awards. Details from: George Winokur, Chairman, Committee on Research Awards, Society of Biological Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Washington University School of Medicine, Renard Hospital, 4940 Audubon Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, USA.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROSURGERY OF PORTO ALEGRE 25th anniversary of foundation, 6-9 March 1971. Details from Dr. Nelson Pires Ferreira, Instituto de Neurocirurgia, Pav. São José, Hospital São Francisco, Pôrto Alegre, Brasil.

XIV LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF NEUROSURGERY Punta del Este, Uruguay, 10-13 March 1971. Details from Instituto de Neurologia, Hospital de Clinicas, Montevideo.