

the items in the picture book, which can be supplemented by objects if necessary.

The information provided on completion of the test indicates how far the child has progressed towards use of the locally accepted articulatory normal. By analysis of the types of errors, as shown on the completed test sheets, one can assess whether the child's speech is progressing normally, or whether it is so immature or atypical for his chronological age to be 'at risk' and to warrant close supervision and speech therapy. The opportunity of being able to note an 'articulation age' will be appreciated by many medical practitioners and therapists.

This test will certainly be of immense value in any speech therapy department involved in the assessment and treatment of children with developmental disorders.

JANE MCARTHUR

LEARNING DISORDERS IN CHILDREN: Diagnosis, Medication, Education Edited by Lester Tarnopol. (Pp. 366; £4.75.) Little, Brown: Boston. 1971. U.K. agents Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh.

Symposia have inherent defects. There is some repetition and there are topics which are neglected. This symposium on the medical and educational management of children who fail to benefit from normal teaching methods is no exception. The cause for the failure is the subject of contention.

The neurologist with an interest in this problem may be able to identify organic cerebral disease or delays in the functional maturity of the brain. Such a contribution is particularly valuable when specific learning disorders are isolated, so that a rational teaching programme can be designed for the needs of each child.

The sections in this book devoted to diagnosis are good. The checklists for the history and examination are comprehensive—perhaps daunting in their detail. There are useful summaries of screening procedures and tests related to the child's development.

The theoretical aspects of learning and the failure to learn are interesting but are so general as to be unhelpful. The discussion of drug treatment for the hyperactive child is, to my mind, misleading, particularly in the almost universal reliance on amphetamines.

This book is valuable in that it summarizes the experience and methods of a group of physicians and psychologists who are active in this field. It would

be of interest to others with similar experience but it would not be a good introduction for a beginner.

IVAN T. DRAPER

PSYCHIC TRAUMATIZATION: After-effects in Individuals and Communities Edited by Henry Krystal and William G. Niderland. (Pp. 236.) Little, Brown: Boston.

This volume belongs to the *International Psychiatry Clinics* series. In keeping with this there is an international flavour to the list of contributors, most of whom are practising psychiatrists in Europe or North America. Unfortunately, despite the cooperation of 11 contributors, there is much that is repetitive in the book. A glance at the contents already suggests that many of the authors are going to be dealing with the same phenomena and so it turns out. Eventually the similarities among the too numerous case histories of concentration camp victims exhaust the reader.

In terms of therapy approaches, most of what is written pertains to intensive individual psychotherapy or psycho-analysis. One cannot but admire the massive effort which has clearly gone into the treatment of some of the victims of 'massive psychic trauma'. One of the editors concludes, however, that in the main a 'modified supportive, rehabilitating, resocialising attitude' is more helpful.

In the final paragraph it is noted that 'the observations are pertinent to any traumatized individual. Most people are massively traumatized at home and in their childhood'. Certainly for many psychiatric patients this rings true. It is because of this, that, although in this volume a number of dedicated workers have pooled their experience and knowledge, there is much overlap and not sufficient diversity of findings to make it interesting reading. The subject could perhaps have been dealt with more effectively in a book of half the length.

DAVID JOHNSON

NOTICE

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MUSCLE DISEASES, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 1974 Provisional dates: 15-21 September 1974, Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Further details will be notified later.

REFERENCES

Authors are reminded that journal titles should now be set out in full in the list of references.