THE DOUBLE BRAIN By S. Diamond. (Pp. 229; illustrated; £3.5.) Churchill Livingstone; Edinburgh. 1972.

This book collects and discusses observations bearing on the differences and similarities in function between the two cerebral hemispheres and the co-operation of the two hemispheres in function. About half the observations discussed come from clinical neurology, a third from experimental psychology, and a sixth from neurophysiology. Very few of them are the author's own; the book is primarily an orderly and well-indexed compilation, with a unifying theme of wide interest. In my own field, neurophysiology, I thought the discussion perverse, but the facts are mostly correct and clearly stated. In the psychological and neurological parts I rarely disagreed with the theoretical remarks and did not too often find them obtrusive or unnecessary. As a reference book for finding what relevant facts are known, *The Double Brain* is convenient and, as far as I can judge, trustworthy.

G. S. BRINDLEY

PSYCHIATRIE DER GEGENWART FORSCHUNG UND PRAXIS—(Present Day Psychiatry—Research and Practice) By K. P. Kisker, J.-E. Meyer, M. Müller, and E. Strömgren. (Pp. 1073; illustrated; DM. 236.) Springer; Berlin. 1972.

Because it lacks a secure scientific basis psychiatry gives wide latitude to hypotheses, theories, and speculations. Their originators find satisfaction in founding schools and their protagonists are often virulently, even politically, opposed to other views. The hope that many, if not all, common illnesses of the mind, particularly the schizophrenias and the neuroses, will one day be found to have their anatomical or biochemical counterparts seems today as far from realization as it was 100 years ago. No doubt there has been progress, but it has been empirical, to be interpreted by the various psychiatric factions according to their own bias. In the past century we have amassed a great deal of knowledge, but a truly scientific explanation of the endogenous diseases of the mind still eludes us. Even the term 'endogenous' is used rather by common consent than by definition.

For the greater part the practising psychiatrist is eclectic, choosing his approach from Pavlovian desensitization to some form of existential analysis as the case may require. Perhaps there is one point on which the divergent schools agree: if the psychiatrist is to help he must establish a measure of human contact with the patient who has come to him seeking liberation from his suffering.

The dilemma of present-day psychiatry and its various facets is well presented in this book, but it also gives guidance. It is excellently composed of 26 contributions, each of which could be presented on its own merit as a monograph. There are three main sections, which include therapy: the endogenous psychoses, the neuroses, and the psychiatry of childhood and adolescence. The section on psychosis is introduced by an outstanding contribution from Manfred Bleuler on the clinical manifestations of schizophrenia, but the other contributors also maintain a very high standard. The essays present the current notions in psychiatry, but each contributor makes it clear where he stands.

The first edition of this work, some 10 years ago quickly gained a high reputation and established itself both as a textbook for the student and as a book of reference for the trained psychiatrist. The present is an enlarged, changed, but in every way worthy successor and both the text and the exhaustive references ensure that this book, like its predecessor, will be an essential part of every psychiatric library.

J. SCHORSTEIN

PERSONALITY AND PERSONAL ILLNESS By G. A. Foulds and T. M. Caine. (Pp. 344; illustrated; price not stated.) Tavistock Publication: London. 1965.

In this interesting book the authors have integrated quantitative assessments of personality with psychiatric diagnostic criteria in an impressive manner. Their work is based upon two familiar concepts of mental disorder. The first proposes that the neuroses and psychoses represent illness of the person and not of the organism, being reflected in disruptions of interpersonal relations or alienation from fellow beings. In the second it is argued that the major categories of mental illness form a continuum ranging from personality disorders to non-integrated schizophrenics, characterized by decreasing ability to establish or maintain personal relationships. Systematically and provocatively the differentiation is clearly made between personality traits and attitudes on the one hand, and symptoms and signs on the other. The experimental work forming the background to the main themes is presented lucidly and the volume as a whole is enlivened with a good measure of humour.

BASIC PSYCHIATRY By Myre Sim and E. B. Gordon. (Pp. 286; £1.75.) Churchill-Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1972.

This book concerns the recognition and treatment of most disorders found in clinical psychiatric practice together with an indication of the relation between