
This book collects and discusses observations bearing on the differences and similarities in function between the two cerebral hemispheres and the cooperation 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 perverted, 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


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 schizophasias 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.

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.


This book concerns the recognition and treatment of most disorders found in clinical psychiatric practice together with an indication of the relation between
fundamental psychological concepts and mental illness. There are also sections dealing with neurophysiology, psychopharmacology, genetics and legal aspects of psychiatry. The authors have adopted both the short note, and question and answer forms of presentation—these are lucid and especially valuable for revision work. It is refreshing to find that the more extreme but currently fashionable aspects of psychotherapy are placed firmly in prospective. One omission, which should be rectified, is a failure to provide information about the law in Scotland relating to psychiatric practice.

Despite its clear style this book is not entirely suitable for nurses, social workers and medical ancillary staff as claimed unless the readers have access to more detailed works. Despite these limitations Basic Psychiatry will provide a very useful addition to the bookshelves of those involved in examinations in clinical psychiatry.

**BOOKS RECEIVED**


**STRUCTOPATHIC CHILDREN Part II** (Pp. 122; illustrated; Dfl. 47.50.) Rotterdam University Press: Rotterdam. 1972.


**NOTICES**

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PATHOLOGY OF CEREBRAL MICROCIRCULATION** 3–5 September 1973, Berlin. Sessions on morphology and physiology of normal and pathological microcirculation in man and experimental animals, with emphasis on relationships of dynamics to morphology. Details from Professor Dr. J. Cervós-Navarro, Direktor, Institut für Neuropathologie, Klinikum Steglitz Freie Universität Berlin, Hindenburgdamm 30, D 1000 Berlin 45, Germany.