

course at his own pace is constantly shaken up by orders of the "On the command . . ." variety which, in the receptive state, must cause some degree of shock and encourage hysteria.

We have, in short, a crude form of reductive analysis based on reliving traumatic incidents, backed by strong suggestion. The aim is abreaction pushed to an extreme and consequently usually unnecessary degree. And there are many who realise that emotional display pushed beyond the limits required for therapy can become a bad habit, to which certain types become addicted just as they would to drugs. It is true, it may fulfil the same role as masturbation in relieving tension. But, especially as dianetic processing is said to be suitably carried out in public, before a group, it is obvious what an opportunity it gives the hysterical exhibitionist.

No doubt dianetics can claim some good results. It is also likely to provoke many calamities. It is to be hoped that the craze for it will be short-lived and that the system will soon find its way into the limbo of other extravagant creeds. L.J.B.

The Young Wage-Earner. By Thos. Ferguson (Professor of Public Health, Glasgow University) and J. Cunnison (Director of Social and Economic Research, Glasgow University). Oxford University Press, 8/6.

This is a meaty book. Its 190 pages and 129 tables are crammed with facts about boys—1,349 of them. It is easy enough to collect a batch of facts from a selected set of boys, ones who are ready to talk. But it is a herculean labour to dig out specific facts from all the boys of a particular group who will include the tongue tied, the lazy, the shy, the facetious, the forgetful and the plain nit-wit. This, however, is just what the authors of "The Young Wage Earner" have succeeded in doing: and it is well to emphasise the fact in view of some of the criticisms which have been levelled at the book. Another thing—they have presented their mass of facts in an admirably straight-forward manner. They open with a few pages about the purpose of their study and the methods they used. Then they proceed to a long summary, very clearly put, of their findings. And after that the reader can make his own way, according to whatever bee he has in his own bonnet, amid the detailed evidence on which the book's findings are based.

The purpose of the study was to present the experience of a thousand-odd Glasgow boys from the time they left school (in January 1947) and were 14, up to roughly their 17th birthday. How did these boys develop and what factors influenced their behaviour and achievements? Would what their lives revealed turn

a spotlight on the kind of conditions for the welfare of adolescents which society should try to foster and those less helpful ones that it should challenge?

The authors, aided by a large number of people concerned with one or other aspect of Glasgow boys' lives, made an intensive study of the youngsters. They contacted every boy at 6-monthly intervals throughout the three years. And they accumulated, at the end of the survey, a battery of information about homes, school records, health, jobs and of course leisure though the latter is, for once, rather subordinated to the boys' work. They seem to have had a remarkably good reception and only 19 of the 1,349 boys were ranked as unco-operative and had to be written off.

The sample is certainly a sizeable one for such a detailed study. But several points must be held in mind. In the first place the boys, born about 1933, were the babies of a society just getting over the worst of the depression; they were the school-children of the war: and they were the offspring of Glasgow (with all its housing trouble) homes. Moreover the "above and below average" boys were not included in the sample as it was confined to those who left school at 14. Approved School, Grammar School, Special School boys and their like are not in the sample.

Nothing particularly startling arose from the study and nothing much of which the professional educationalist or social worker could not say "we knew that already." But pedestrian though most of the findings may be, they suggest fairly forcibly some of the danger spots in the current set-up as well as lines on which existing work seems to be proving satisfactory. The survey showed that at 17 for example, 50% of the boys were on their way to a skilled trade or profession: that the employment level of the boys had upgraded on that of their fathers: that the boys normally chose their jobs because of its supposed interest and not primarily for the wage offered: or, less cheerfully, that as many as one in five boys were indifferent to their job during their three first years of "work." The wage position was interesting. At 17, a third were being paid from 41/- to 50/- a week and the modal wage of boys in training for skilled work was one 10s. class lower than that of all boys."

Two interesting lines of enquiry were health and housing. There was a persistent correlation between physical stature and the quality of the boys' life. The small, under-sized boy gets the poor job. He joins clubs less. He goes more often to the cinema. One could write in the complete picture. Patterns of life seem to change very slowly even in the present bustling age. The boy from the new slum-clearance housing estate on which he has lived most of his life, is below the level on most counts of the boy from the new but *non* slum-clearance area.

One could continue endlessly. The book is always fruitful whether one is nagging after small details or looking at the larger canvas. And on the whole the impression it leaves is hopeful both by reason of the positive improvements that have been made in the lives of adolescent boys and for the fact that, as the study demonstrates, society is trying to see that the improvement continues.

P.J.

The Gifted Child. Edited by Paul Witty. D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, U.S.A. London: George Harrap & Co. 22/6.

This book was written on behalf of the American Association for Gifted Children and is an attempt to give in non-technical language, practical suggestions for handling the problems of the gifted child. It is an expression of the Association's strong conviction that "advances in all areas of life depend to a very substantial degree upon the vision and insight of a relatively few exceptionally able people" and that America, with its genius for mass production and industrial organisation is neglecting its greatest resource—gifted children and young people. It is interesting that the concept of "gifted" which guided the collection and analysis of material during the two years' research which preceded the publication of the book, was deliberately not confined to the kind of brilliance revealed by intelligence testing, and that consideration is also given to the educational and social needs of children gifted in art, music and creative writing.

The investigation was conducted with characteristic American thoroughness, and the sections of the book—contributed by a variety of authors—are concerned with the history of the study of gifted children, including especially summaries of the work of Leta Stetter Hollingworth and Terman and of the Stanford University studies; the requirements of teachers of gifted children; the mental hygiene of the gifted; the existing educational provision in America for such children, and the responsibilities of the community towards them. There is an exhaustive bibliography of individual studies on the subject and the book should prove a most valuable reference work for anyone wishing to carry the subject further in this country.

Perhaps one of the most valuable sections is that on the mental hygiene of the gifted child, as this has application beyond the peculiarly American field and should be of great interest to all teachers and psychologists. Leta Stetter Hollingworth held that the best range of intelligence for all-round stable personality development was between I.Q.'s of 125 and 155, and that children above the latter intelligence level were unlikely to become leaders in their group or to make a satisfactory social adjustment as they were too unlike their fellows. The present study confirms this opinion and