

It would still in fact seem that the existing imperfect clinical methods of grouping patients and their complaints remain the best available. The value of the present study lies more in providing certain defined dimensions of behaviour which, though they do not describe all phenomena of illness, could at times be usefully studied in relation to casual factors and prognosis.

H. Merskey

Clinical Psychology, An Introduction to Research and Practice. By N. D. Sundberg and L. E. Tyler. (Methuen, 1963, 50s.)

This is a very comprehensive book, covering every possible aspect of its field. The style is pleasantly lucid but the amount of detail is often confusing, and the authors' praiseworthy desire not to be dogmatic results in the reader finding some difficulty in abstracting any definite conclusions.

The research suggested at the end of each section does not appear likely to lead to any great break-through, and although the different psychotherapeutic techniques are described well, others have done this before.

As a text-book for clinical psychologists this volume may be useful, if a little bewildering. Those who wish to know something about what clinical psychologists do and how their efforts can help solve clinical problems will not, I am afraid, be much the wiser for reading it. The differences of opinion, attitude and aim which permeate this field are not elucidated and it is clear that the terms and models evolved by experimental psychologists can, if used indiscriminately, fog rather than clarify many issues.

Moyra Williams

The Biology of Mental Defect. By L. S. Penrose. (Sidgwick and Jackson, 1963, 42s.)

Many workers in the field of mental defect are indebted to Professor Penrose for his books which have, over the past 30 years, so significantly modified our views and stimulated our interest. Advances in medicine and genetics in the past decade "have shattered many treasured concepts of mental subnormality." This third edition is therefore most welcome.

A great deal of the book has been rewritten with the assistance of J. M. Berg and Helen Lang-Brown. As before, the first six chapters give a general account of the subject, and the rest are concerned with special conditions. These include gene defects, chromosome anomalies, foetal malformation and environmentally determined disabilities. Although the emphasis is on the biological basis of the problem, the broader social aspects are discussed and the general outlook is humanitarian.

There are numerous figures and tables and the valuable references, which cover a wide range in time and subject, occupy over 40 pages. In this preface, J. B. S. Haldane has only one warning to readers of this book. "Penrose has the habit of presenting views, which he does not share, with scrupulous fairness. It is thus often necessary to read his book with care in order to discover what he thinks himself." But this is well worth doing.

L. T. Hilliard

Mental Health: Proceedings of a Conference organised by the Scottish Association for Mental Health in April, 1963. (S.A.M.H., 2s.)

This report would make interesting reading for students and workers in the mental health services. Professor Ritchie Calder draws from his wide experience of other societies to present his observations of mental health in a changing world. Dr. H. E. Seiler gives an informative paper on the duties placed on local authorities by the Mental Health Act. Dr. H. N. Levitt, a London general practitioner, sets the role of the family doctor against the community background which he shares with his patients. He highlights the importance of the general practitioner being able to recognise the emotional disorders encountered in daily consultations and home visits.

Sir Derrick Dunlop in a paper on Mental Health and General Hospitals stresses the need for the patient to be treated as a sentient human being.

Finally, the report contains an excellent paper on special education for E.S.N. pupils by Mr. R. Gulliford, indicating clearly the needs of this group.

Ann Gray