Inevitably omissions must occur in a pamphlet as small as this and some of these omissions may perhaps occur since the acknowledgments indicate the authors were women.

For example, although the pamphlet stresses the difficulties which can arise when an experienced male marries a virgin wife, there is no mention of the converse where a virgin husband is confronted with an experienced wife, which may cause him to have grave doubts as to his ability to satisfy her. Even more so are the problems which arise when neither spouse is virgin and expect their previous sex experiences to be duplicated! These appear to be new problems arising in this generation, with the wider distribution of pre-marital sex experience more prevalent.

In some respects the lay reader may feel that not enough has been said about the details of love making, the preparation for coitus and the achievement of orgasm. This last is still lacking in many marriages and indeed many couples still do not know that a wife should achieve orgasm.

Again, the feminine authorship reveals itself in emphasising that the wife "should not be neat, tidy and controlled in the sex act". This seems a very negative exhortation and I feel that more positive and detailed instructions on the very active part to be played by the woman in order to achieve her orgasm is essential, if this booklet is to be of any use to a couple confronted with one of the most important of all problems to be met with in marriage.

The descriptions of intercourse on page 16 would seem to be too vague to be of any real help to a couple in trouble.

Finally, when one recognises the Rorschach origins of the front cover photo, one must ask what purpose does it serve other than to puzzle even more the puzzled laymen who pick up this book for enlightenment?

Nevertheless, this booklet is of great value to a young couple in difficulties and a special word of praise is due for the glossary and guide to pronunciation. So often people are lost because they do not know the proper names of the parts they have to discuss.

The list of references is also valuable, but it seems a pity to have omitted the excellent booklet "Sex Factor in Marriage" by Helena Wright which seems to give just the detailed technical information which this pamphlet omits. **Bernard Sandler**

PAEDIATRIC PSYCHIATRY. *By Hale F. Shirley, M.D. (O.U.P., 1963, 80s.)*

Dr. Shirley is a Professor of Psychiatry and Paediatrics and is a Director of the Child Psychiatry Clinic of Stanford University School of Medicine, U.S.A. This book is intended primarily for the "paediatrician" who, in America, is the general practitioner consulted on problems of physical and emotional disorders of children, and responsible for what is known as "well-child care".

It deals with basic concepts in personality development, clinical syndromes, investigation and treatment procedures. The book embodies Dr. Shirley's own extensive experience over 30 years.

The book suffers from its aim of comprehensiveness. There are quotations from many sources, and ideas both of a closely similar and of a contradictory nature are included in the same sections. Sometimes compromises are made between psychiatric teaching and popular demand. The author, for example, condemns bottle-propping, "though there may be situations such as in the case of twins when it is most convenient". He is unduly hopeful with regard to the effects of guidance and support on handicapped children.

The faults arise out of the fact that child psychiatric concepts are still in the process of formulation, and psychiatrists have to absorb their background knowledge from different sources, each one making his own synthesis.

The time is ripe for the building-up of organised knowledge based on new principles, which should be related to the functional needs of the child, whose problems extend into his life in the home, the school, and the community.

To bring together existing sources is perhaps as much as can be done at pres and the discriminating reader will find much that is valuable. **J. H. K**

CHILDREN IN HOMES. *By Kenneth Brill and Ruth Thomas. (Gollancz, 1964, 2*

The real talent of this book lies in Part I, which is about children, their feelings what do you do about pets, slow eaters, and a sense of not belonging. "I enjoyed it is on the side of the child," says A. S. Neill on the wrapper. It is so, to the ex that it is warmly understanding about children's needs. But if it had been *all* on side of the child, it would have been useless. The main strength of the book is tha does at least recognise that staff have their problems too, one of which is the admi trative environment in which they have to work. However, there are one or two bl assumptions even here, and one or two knotty problems are evaded. I was struck the reference to poor old Miss Moore, a middle-aged housemother who "proba welcomes the approach of retirement on pension". If I know anything about M Moore, and a dozen like her, she's probably scared by the very idea. Nothing's about who's to replace her, either. She may need to spend the next twenty years do relief duty in remand homes.

Broadly speaking, the authors welcome a warm and realistic middle way, in ca for disturbed children. Exemplifying their approach, there are four good pages ab orderliness, in which the pressures creating it are mentioned, ranging from obt councillors to hostile parents—"The combined effect of all these pressures is to fo practically every houseparent into maintaining a degree of order which is excessi compared with the conditions in the generality of private houses." This is follow by a mention of the pitfalls, if not the dangers, of going to the other extreme treating disturbed children in an excessively disordered environment.

I hope this book reaches a wide audience, as it deserves to. Anybody interested children would find something here that is touching, or provocative, or helpful particularly hope that it will be read by councillors and members of managem committees, so that they can be helped to know what to look for. **John Str**

SOMATIC AND PSYCHIATRIC ASPECTS OF CHILDHOOD ALLERGIES. *International Ser of Monographs on Child Psychiatry (No. 1), ed. Ernest Harms. (Pergamon Pre 1963, 70s.)*

In the introduction to this book, containing fifteen articles by various authors, Harold Abrahamson remarks that "the theory and practice of the therapy of allergic patient must be revised." He goes on to say: "This volume provides a bro point of view which recognises that a merger between the broad concepts of i munology and psychiatry in the field of allergy has occurred and that immunologi concepts are necessary but not sufficient to treat the total patient." This comprehensi approach is not, perhaps, completely accepted by all the contributors. One dete the remnants of an approach quite recently put in these words by an allergist[1]: "T modern treatment of bronchial asthma is immunologically based; skin tests for aller have been solely responsible for the considerable progress made in the total mana ment of asthma as it affects man."

In this volume, the many reservations that apply to skin testing, and to oth techniques of allergists, are fairly set out. Saul and Delano ask: "Do emotion factors make an 'allergic person'?" and "Do early emotional experiences conditi the person?" to allergic reactions—important questions which counter the comm tendency to regard psyche and soma as separate parts of the person, each capable influencing the other.

This book brings together a great deal of the available evidence that is drawi allergy back into general medicine. The general physician will be interested to re at one end of the scale, of the mechanistic attitude which compartmentalises aller as a "pure" antigen-antibody reaction; and, at the other end, of the Freudian attitu

[1] Peshkin, M. M., in *The Asthmatic Child* (p. 4), ed. Schneer, H. I., 1963. New York: Harper & Ro