

nursing team by a non-nursing grade (the ward assistant). To be responsible for the organisation and management, there are to be "Regional Councils of Nursing Education" and "School Councils".

Matching this "new look" is a minimum entry requirement of five passes at ordinary level in the General Certificate of Education, for those wishing to become State Registered Nurses, a period of one year's internship following (a shorter) two years' training, and, where appropriate, education at university level.

If these recommendations are to be implemented, there will need to be a drastic change in financial policy, but the rewards in terms of better-prepared nurses and better patient care are likely to be inestimable.

Within this excellent report, however, two questions of great import to the psychiatric nurse are left unanswered. How is the nursing profession to be made attractive to young *men* possessing the necessary qualifications for entry, when so many other openings are available to them; and how long will it be before the general and mental registers are combined?

Audrey L. John

BEYOND ALL REASON. *A Personal Experience of Madness*. By Morag Coate. (Constable, 1964, 21s.)

In this book we walk through phantom towns, phantom offices, we are taken to phantom hospitals, we meet phantom people—the author never names a place, or tells us what her work was—her parents, her friends, her psychiatrists, nurses and fellow patients have no faces. As though the world she moved in had hardly touched her. How can you live like this and not die of loneliness?

Although the first part of her book is called "The Story", it is really a cool analysis of her deranged thoughts, a completely detached description of her phantom love affair with God.

The second part, "Commentary", is truly a commentary on psychiatrists, mental hospitals, mental illnesses and not a reliving of her experiences as a psychotic. Maybe it would be more helpful for doctors, nurses and social workers if they could sense some of the patient's suffering while reading her words. What makes her illness so tragic is that she will not allow herself to feel or to express feeling in any way—and in that case, how can anyone ever reach her? But for those who prefer intelligent commentary to turbulent emotions this should be an interesting and unusual book.

Susan Odescalchi

A TEXTBOOK IN ANALYTICAL GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY. By S. R. Slavson. (International Universities Press, New York, 1964, £3 15s.)

Mr. Slavson holds the world record among authors of books on group psychotherapy and allied topics. This is his twelfth book, and a thirteenth is on the way (as he announced at the recent Sixth International Congress of Psychotherapy in London). Why this prolific output? Two possible answers come immediately to mind: (a) the author is a perfectionist who is never fully satisfied with the merits of his latest book, and (b) he has so much to say that no single book can contain the breadth of his thought.

There can be no doubt that Slavson is a perfectionist, and he obviously expects others to live up to his ideals. Here, for example, is his list of subjects in which a group psychotherapist should be versed: "zoology; genetics; embryology; physiology; neurology; endocrinology; general, experimental, integrative, Gestalt, abnormal, dynamic and depth psychologies; child development; psychopathology; clinical diagnosis; basic psychiatry; family dynamics; dynamic sociology; cultural anthropology; and economics". After this it comes as a surprise that Slavson should continue: "It is becoming increasingly evident that medical training as such is not essential for the practice of psychotherapy." But there is a proviso: "providing the therapist does not attempt to deal with psychotic and with organic patients. . . . He should in all instances have a prospective patient examined by a general physician, a

neurologist, and [*sic*] a psychiatrist." One wonders whether there are any group psychotherapists who fill the bill.

Slavson also has a great deal of value to say about the structure and functioning of ordinary and therapeutic groups, and about the process of psychotherapy. He proudly states that he has contributed more than thirty new terms to the literature on group psychotherapy; and, behind each new term, there are ideas which have thrown new light on one or the other aspect of this wide field.

The book is thus well worth consulting. In particular, Slavson stands out among group therapists by his insistence that different kinds of therapeutic groups are required for patients of a different age level and clinical diagnosis. In fact, his demand for therapeutic flexibility is so great that, in his opinion, only few patients qualify for analytic group psychotherapy—only patients with schizoid personalities, psychio masochism, character disorders, and some with psychoneuroses. The list of unsuitable patients is much longer: anxiety neurotics, neurotic characters, compulsive-obsessional patients, psychopaths, cyclothymic personalities, paranoiacs, depressives, perverts, hypochondriacs, and true hysterics. In addition, he suggests that patients who are active psychotics or active homosexuals can only be treated in special analytic groups, namely those comprised entirely of patients with the same diagnosis.

F. Kräupl Taylor

THE CLINICAL METHOD IN PSYCHOLOGY. By *Robert I. Watson.* (John Wiley and Sons Inc., New York, 1964, 19s.)

This book was first published fourteen years ago in the United States and one wonders why it is now produced for the British market. One supposes that the publishers must believe that psychology is at least fourteen years behind in Britain compared to the United States and that they hope for a market for the book here.

At the time when it was published in the U.S.A. this book was a fairly good review of the clinical method in psychology, although perhaps a trifle wordy. Now, however, it is quite out of date and does not even mention the relatively new Stanford Binet L-M version nor the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children. Nor, of course, does the book include any of the literature on Wechsler's other scales, which has appeared in the last fourteen years, so the chapter on Wechsler's scales is largely pointless. It might have been an improvement if the book had begun with children instead of adults, for then the bearing of both theory and diagnostic evidence of the early years might have been related to the theory and diagnostic evidence about adults. Even if it had no bearing or logical connection to show, this in itself would have been a matter of importance.

Peter Secretan

A PRACTICUM OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY. By *A. L. Kadis, J. D. Kresner, C. Winick and S. H. Foulkes.* (Harper & Rowe, 1963, 49s.)

This book sets out to be a practical guide to anyone who is proposing to set up a therapy group. In the various chapters, consideration is given to the physical and psychological conditions necessary for its instigation and furtherance, to various common group phenomena, to a possible use of dreams, to the selection of patients for such a psychotherapeutic endeavour, and to its termination. The last part of the book is devoted to an examination of the activities of group therapists today, and to a scheme for more systematic training.

Many of the questions that arise in the mind of anyone who is planning or is engaged in leading a therapy group are given answers, deriving from the authors' experiences. The result is something like a cookery book; it promises to be a godsend to those embarking on a new adventure. Inevitably, the book speaks with more authority than is justified; as meticulous evaluation of many of the technical procedures advocated is at present beyond our skill, established usage, more or less critically reviewed, is what carries the day. Such a book cannot therefore avoid being