

Portrait of a schizophrenic nurse

By Clare Marc Wallace (*Hammond, Hammond, 21s.*)

Nurse and patient: the influence of human relationships

By Genevieve Burton (*Mind and Medicine Monographs, Tavistock, 21s.*)

The hospital world abounds in standardised beliefs and theories; for example: (a) Nurses make 'bad' patients; (b) People who have had severe psychotic breakdowns should never be allowed to nurse; (c) Many, if not all, mental illnesses are characterised by extreme egocentricity ('selfishness') on the part of the patient.

Most nurses who think, teach others, or have any insight into their own feelings are aware of the flaws in such beliefs and of the latent aggression and anxiety inherent in them. It is a shock, therefore, to read a book which seems to bear them out. Miss Wallace was a very 'bad' patient; in spite of advice, she persisted in taking professional employment which wrought havoc in her own mind; and her book is egocentric to an alarming degree. She is fortunate that her illness uncovered an undoubted talent for writing, less fortunate, perhaps, that it shows with pathetic clarity how often the mentally ill person is his own worst enemy. Many times, however, the author remarks on the kindness, understanding and forbearance, the acceptance of her inability to be other than she was, by friends, nurses, and doctors. It seems, too, that there were times when nurses, in particular, were less successful in making relationships with her and there is one horrifying account of her reception in a hospital where she went to work in a period of remission, enough to undermine the most secure personality.

In Miss Burton's excellent book, there are many illustrations of successful and unsuccessful relationships between nurses and patients, and much well-documented material on the influence of people on one another. Perhaps the 'bad' patient, the nurse who has a mental breakdown, the apparently selfish person to 'refuses' to respond to treatment might be better helped by the understanding and accepting nurse than by the drugs which offer a tempting way out of impossible situations for many unhappy and disturbed people.

Una V. Budge

The Clumsy Charlie series

By H. C. Gunzburg, 4s. each, S.E.F.A. (Publications) Ltd.

Book 1. *Clumsy Charlie And Those Doors*

Book 2. *Clumsy Charlie At Work*

Book 3. *Clumsy Charlie At Home*

Book 4. *Clumsy Charlie At Large*

These four readers for the illiterate represent an apparent contradiction in terms. They are in fact not 'readers', but a teaching-aid for the recognition of a social sight vocabulary. The books can be used in a variety of ways by the perceptive teacher to help the young adult illiterate to gain a 'shorthand communication', to assist him in adjusting to the community. The key words of the vocabulary stand out in the text by the use of variation in type-faces and in sizes of capitals. Constant repetition of the words occurs in

a series of novel, humorous situations in a story presented by the teacher.

Dr. Gunzburg draws the attention of the teacher to the necessity of linking the story-line to real-life situations of the illiterate's experience, in order to increase motivation, and to the possibility of using the stories in drama form. Used intelligently, there is no doubt that these books could be a most valuable aid in the upper range of the junior training centre, as well as the adult training centre. Like all teaching aids, however, they are only as good as the use a teacher makes of them. It is to be hoped that teachers will not use them just for formal 'desk' work, but take them as a basis for widening experience. Some criticism must be levelled, however, at the unattractive appearance of the books, in comparison with other books for backward readers at present on the market. The drawings which highlight the text make their points clearly and adequately but are uninspiring, if not actually dull. Further, though one can see the point of Clumsy Charlie's appearance (presumably negative association) for this reader, at least, he evoked a disturbing resemblance to Alfred E. Neumann of the magazine *Mad* notoriety. It would be a pity if this caused potential users to scorn this most welcome aid.

Norman Rea

Other publications received

Casework and depression—reprinted from *The British Journal of Psychiatric Social Work*. (The Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, 24 pages, 4s.)

Function and organisation of a social work department in hospital. (The Institute of Medical Social Workers, 5 pages, 6d.)

The medical social worker in community health and welfare services. (The Institute of Medical Social Workers, 5 pages, 6d.)

The local health services. (Office of Health Economics, 40 pages, 2s. 6d.)

What you should know about educational testing by J. McV. Hunt. (Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 375, 28 pages, 25c.)

The British Journal of Psychiatric Social Work, Vol. VIII, 1965, No. 2. Edited by M. W. Hamilton. (Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, 66 pages, 10s. 6d.)