

reform and legislation during the period 1744 to 1845 in terms of the general cultural pattern and the wider social reforms of that time. She stresses the part played by social reformers, rather than the development of any professional medical knowledge in the field of mental illness. At first sight, this would seem to give a biased and too narrow picture, but Dr. Jones makes it clear that her approach is fully justified. She demonstrates how progress was impossible without a change of public attitudes, and how closely linked these attitudes were with the major social issues of the day. It is interesting to see how far some of these same attitudes are still reflected in our modern legislation on mental ill-health. For this reason, Dr. Jones' book is especially valuable at a time when the possibility of fresh legislation is being considered.

In an Epilogue, the author deals briefly with the changes in the law from the Lunatics Act 1845 until the present day, whilst there are Appendices on the special status of Criminal Lunatics and Chancery Lunatics, and on the incidence of insanity. These sections are disappointing; but since they do not form an essential part of the central thesis, their relative weakness does not greatly impair the value of the book as a whole.

T. A. RATCLIFFE.

Psychoanalytic Interpretation in Rorschach Testing: Theory and Application. By Roy Schafer. Grune and Stratton. New York. 1954

The contents of this book include a long chapter entitled "Interpersonal Dynamics in the Test Situation", several chapters on form and content analysis, and many illustrative protocols are discussed in detail. Throughout an attempt is made to understand Rorschach theory in terms of psychoanalytical psychology. It is not a book for the beginner since it requires both a solid grounding in Rorschach principles and a working knowledge of psychoanalysis. To those clinical psychologists who believe implicitly in the dogma of Rorschach and psychoanalytical theory, this book will be very welcome and an invaluable aid to diagnosis. To those psychologists who believe that psychology should be a science, based only upon validated concepts, this book will be of little practical use since the major part of both Rorschach and psychoanalytic theory fails to meet the basic requirements of scientifically-minded psychologists.

Dr. Schafer makes almost no attempt to discuss how the many unvalidated concepts of either Rorschach or psychoanalytical theory could be validated experimentally; in general he ignores such experimental studies as do exist. He writes as if the common assumptions of these two doctrines are established facts rather than a series of, as yet, unvalidated beliefs which have gradually

accumulated over the years and which have become, by virtue of time and a devout following, to be regarded as proven facts. The superabundance of esoteric jargon in both these disciplines have added to the confusion and made it even more difficult to separate fact from fancy.

This book has a limited appeal in that it is of little use to social workers and people in allied professions and even among psychologists it will only be of use to Rorschach workers who have a marked psychoanalytic inclination. In the opinion of this reviewer the great need at the present stage of Rorschach usage is not for new books which complicate Rorschach theory by introducing even more unvalidated and ill-defined concepts but for a critical and experimental evaluation of existing "knowledge" in the hope that a precise tool will one day emerge.

CYRIL M. FRANKS.

Deprived Children. A Social and Clinical Study. By Hilda Lewis.

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This book describes and in some measure attempts to evaluate the work of the Pioneer Children's Reception Centre at Mersham, Kent, which owed its inspiration to Miss Lena Rendel, Honorary Director of the Caldecott community, and its practical possibility to the financial support of the Nuffield Foundation. The Centre ran from 1947-1950 and during this period 500 children became its successive inhabitants. The Curtis Committee advocated the use of reception centres as a stepping stone for children who could no longer live in their own homes and the Children's Act 1948 made their establishment by Local Authorities obligatory.

Dr. Lewis writes in her preface :

"The Mersham Centre was the first of its kind. The aim before it was twofold—to do the best for the children and to accumulate data which would throw light on the relation of cause and effect in their lives, deflected as they were from the normal paths of conduct and upbringing. Hence might come surer guidance on how to lessen the troubles that beset children deprived of a settled and happy home".

The subsequent histories of the 240 children selected for follow-up study, which are discussed in some detail in chapter 5 of the book, indeed show that the careful planning of the children's placement have paid dividends. But how far the wealth of data about their family background, previous personal experiences, personality problems and behaviour, throws light on "the relation between cause and effect in their lives" must remain more open to doubt. One is left with the impression that too much importance