

cerned with the inadequacy of existing systems of psychiatric classification and they distinguish between personality traits and attitudes on the one hand and the systems and signs of mental (or personal) illness on the other. Existing systems of classification either attempt to prove or disprove the presence of some distinct disease entity, or, alternatively, descriptions of personality traits are offered as if those were the disease. Both methods are sometimes used simultaneously.

A large part of the book is devoted to technical studies, using a symptom-sign inventory. It also refers to the fact that classification is an essentially selective process in which we choose resemblances amongst our data which are relevant to our intention, and that we neglect certain other resemblances which are not relevant.

The reader can also be selective. Even those who find difficulty in following the detailed studies in tabular form could be stimulated by the way in which the authors borrow from philosophers, anthropologists, psychologists and clinical psychiatrists, in order to build up new concepts.

J. H. Kahn

Morbid jealousy and murder

by R. R. Mowat
(Tavistock, 30s)

This is a report on patients in Broadmoor, which shows that 12 per cent of the insane male murderers committed to that hospital had killed while under the delusion that their wives or mistresses were unfaithful to them. As murderers go, they were an elderly group, of average age 47½ years. Unlike ordinary, jealous lovers, their attacks were nearly always upon wives, rather than upon supposed rivals. The latter, being imaginary, could never be caught in the act and were only hazily identified.

As with most deluded patients, these murderers seemed driven by emotional necessity to misinterpret inconsequential happenings as evidence supporting their beliefs. They were singularly unwilling to give up their supposedly treacherous mates. Twenty-nine per cent attempted suicide after the crime, and ten per cent had a history of previous suicidal attempts.

Most of the patients retained their delusions years after the crime. In a small minority, the illness remained a monomania, without gross disturbance

in other respects, but most patients had experienced at the time of the crime, or else developed later, many symptoms of mental disease. Most commonly, the spread of delusional ideas, and the development of bizarre and distorted thought processes, revealed unmistakable schizophrenia. However, manic-depressive psychosis, or organic brain damage from alcohol or other causes, were also quite common. Thus, it seems that the symptom of morbid jealousy may arise in a variety of psychiatric states.

For public consumption, the presentation here is a little too much in the style of a research thesis, with points laboured and underlined with a surfeit of tabulations, but the book demonstrates what interesting, important and little-used clinical research material exists at Broadmoor, and the conclusions have implications far beyond the confines of that institution.

D. J. West

New horizons in psychology

edited by Brian M. Foss
(Penguin Books, 7s 6d)

To those who still think of psychology as a matter of philosophical speculation or moralistic dissertation, this volume will come as something of a surprise. Although the topics covered are by no means representative of the total field, they are wide enough to make most normal minds boggle.

The section headings sound innocuous enough. We have our old friends perception, learning and personality, but within a few pages the reader finds himself in a world of controlled experiment and mathematical deduction, in which the human being seems to play an insignificant role. It is not enough now for psychologists to be mere thinkers; they must be engineers, mathematicians as well. The fact that most of the contributors have been able to put over their work in simple and readable prose is extra credit to them.

The detailed knowledge which is being built up in the various branches of psychology makes it almost impossible for any one person to be an expert in more than a single subject. Hence the editor's very wise decision to have each chapter written by a separate person. The resulting work is less of a hotch-potch than many symposia, thanks to his dovetailing of the papers, and his own brief introduction to each one.

Moyra Williams

Behaviour therapy techniques

by Joseph Wolpe
and Arnold A. Lazarus
(Pergamon, 21s)

Pioneers must believe wholeheartedly in their cause and be prepared to fight for it. Drs. Wolpe and Lazarus are among the pioneers of behaviour therapy and for years they have struggled to gain acceptance. Now, psychiatrists are beginning to use the techniques and the time has come for a dispassionate appraisal of what has been achieved. But the authors are still fighting, with psychoanalysts, their particular target. Indeed, they write as though the only treatments for neurosis are behaviour therapy and psychoanalysis. In fact, the psychiatrist now uses a wide range of methods of brief psychotherapy, group therapy and drug treatment, and no doubt behaviour therapy will find a place among them.

Despite this, the book is valuable for its clear description of the techniques which Dr. Wolpe pioneered. It can be recommended to psychiatrists and psychologists, for whom it is mainly intended, but other readers must bear in mind the authors' particular viewpoint if they are to see their work in perspective.

M. G. Gelder

Social casework and administration

by Anthony Forder
(Faber & Faber, 35s)

This is an important and much needed book for the general public which will also help to clarify the ideas of the professional worker. It describes the administrative part in social casework, illustrating from a variety of real situations. It is a commonplace that social workers tend to ignore the administrative process or to feel that 'administration' impedes the treatment part of their work, which is what they have been trained to do. It is equally true that social workers today are asking for more teaching about social administration, the formation of social policy and how their speciality fits into the whole context of social service. How to teach social administration in a vital enough way, not divorced from real life situations, is one of the problems.

This book provides plenty of material for discussion at more advanced levels, and information about the kind of