

a place in a mental hospital than to get out of one. The report of Lord Percy's Commission gives effect to the present-day view that the Lunacy Act, by its emphasis on the liberty of the subject, may be restricting the opportunities for treatment in a mental hospital population which every year contains more voluntary patients. In this setting the idea that the Ministry, the Board of Control, and the psychiatrists are in a vast conspiracy of silence which renders persecution of the patients possible is an outdated attitude. The editors do not necessarily agree with the eight patients, who, they admit, are awkward people with grievances, but the book will have the unfortunate effect on the lay reader of emphasizing individual rights to such an extent as to minimize the greatest need of the moment—that is, to make the highest standard of treatment available to those who need it. Thanks to a gradually improved attitude on the part of the public towards its lamentable brothers, this Act is now out of date.

It is said that legal enactment must follow public opinion after a suitable interval. Parliament is the intermediary which should transform the one into the other. That the editors have visited mental hospitals in the course of their crusade no one will doubt, but they are not concerned to reveal anything on the credit side of this harassed branch of medicine. Had they published this book in 1886 it might have helped materially to bring about the passing of the Lunacy Act of 1890-1.

ALEXANDER KENNEDY.

HYDATIDIFORM MOLE AND CHORIONEPITHELIOMA

Trophoblastic Growths: A Clinical, Hormonal and Histopathologic Study of Hydatidiform Mole and Chorionepithelioma. By J. Smalbraak, M.D. Introduction by the late Emil Novak, M.D., D.Sc. (Pp. 342+xii; illustrated. 72s.) Amsterdam, New York, Princeton: Elsevier Publishing Company. London: Cleaver-Hume Press Ltd. 1957.

To produce a book of no less than 342 pages devoted to the subject of hydatidiform mole and chorionepithelioma may seem remarkable. This has, however, been done by Dr. J. Smalbraak, of Haarlem, working in association with the University of Utrecht. The text is in excellent English, and there is an introduction by the late Emil Novak; it must have been one of the last professional activities of that famous gynaecologist.

This is not an easy book to assess. Certainly it contains a wealth of information, and with 800 references to literature it is difficult to imagine anything more complete. Nevertheless, in the earlier chapters at least, the reader has difficulty in "seeing the wood for the trees," and in knowing how the author himself regards the many different views and opinions which he so freely quotes. But this criticism does the book less than justice. Much of the text concerns the detailed case histories of 74 cases of hydatidiform mole and 17 cases of chorionepithelioma. Furthermore, there is the concluding chapter of 10 pages in which the preceding sections are summarized. Here the author's own opinions are much more clearly set forth. This short concluding chapter is indeed well worth careful study. Among many other interesting remarks there is a warning against over-reliance on hormone excretion tests for the diagnosis of hydatidiform mole—a warning that will be supported by many gynaecologists in Great Britain, for the possibility of error both in the positive and in the negative sense is now being generally realized. Some scepticism is expressed regarding the prognostic value of Hertig and Heldon's six histological divisions of hydatidiform mole. In the treatment of chorionepithelioma a local surgical excision (but with retention of the ovaries) is advocated. For inoperable cases heavy dosage with oestrogens (100 mg. stilboestrol daily) is advised. The illustrations are outstandingly good. Most of them are of histological sections, and some are in colour; they are quite the best collection of which I have knowledge. This is a book which should be in every gynaecological library.

J. CHASSAR MOIR.

PERSONALITY THEORY

Perspectives in Personality Theory. Edited by Henry P. David, Ph.D., and Helmut von Bracken, Dr.Phil. et Med. (Pp. 435+xii. 38s.) London: Tavistock Publications Ltd. 1957.

This book arose from a symposium on European theories of personality which was held at the International Congress in Montreal three years ago. Much has been added to what was said then, so that now over 400 pages are put before the reader, divided into six parts. In the first part, entitled "Overview," there is a lengthy chapter by Allport on European and American theories of personality. The second part, "European Trends," contains five chapters discussing personality theory in Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, Italy, and France: this is probably the most interesting section of the book to most readers, who will have little knowledge of what is going on in many of these countries. The third part is entitled "Theory," and its eight chapters present a curious mixture, ranging from "Neuro-humoral Factors and Personality" to "Femininity and Existential Psychology." Part IV is entitled "Methodology," but contains only three chapters and does not deal at all with the more experimental methods. Part V, entitled "Commentary," is made up of three chapters critically evaluating some of the contributions; and Part VI, "Resources," presents a selected annotated bibliography and a note on the International Congress.

The book is difficult to review, being very much like the curate's egg. Some of the chapters are excellent and informative, such as Allport's introductory chapter, Franks's chapter on personality theory in Britain, or McClelland's commentary. Others, particularly those emanating from German "stratification" theory, are obscure and uninformative to a quite surprising extent. The main fault of the book probably is that, like Topsy, it just "grows"; it does not appear to have been anybody's task to keep contributors in order or see that a proper coverage was achieved. As a consequence most readers will find something to interest them in this book, and also something to disagree with; perhaps it would be unreasonable to expect more than that from a venture of this kind.

H. J. EYSENCK.

Throughout the past century the problem of the disposal of the dead has become more acute, and Parliament has made many attempts to solve it. Mr. M. R. R. Davies, Ph.D., a member of the legal staff of the Nottinghamshire County Council, has now provided a clear and comprehensive statement of the important legal principles, provisions, and cases underlying the bewildering complexities of the law relating to the disposal and disinterment of the dead in *The Law of Burial, Cremation, and Exhumation* (Shaw and Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4, 27s. 6d.). His work is divided into three sections: burials; cremation; and exhumation and disused burial grounds. The relevant portions of the statutes are quoted in bold type, and the author has added comments to aid in their interpretation, with references to illustrative legal cases. The book has a full subject index, tables of statutes and statutory instruments and of the legal cases quoted, and a directory of British crematoria. This should prove a useful work of reference for all who have to do with the disposal of the dead.

Dr. Agatha Bowley's *The Young Handicapped Child* (Livingstone, 1957; pp. viii+128; 10s. 6d.) is intended for the guidance of parents and teachers concerned with the education of blind, cerebral-palsied, and deaf children. The incidence, causes, and assessment of each of the three conditions are examined, and the principles and methods of psychological and educational care are described from considerable first-hand experience. The section on the young deaf child is contributed by Mr. L. Gardner.

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