

is difficult because of the simultaneous operation of so many variables and the impossibility of obtaining adequate control groups. The author therefore chose to obtain indirect information about the effect of the programme by studying possible causes of failure and registering the frequency of occurrence of certain characteristics in patients who failed to benefit from attendance at the State Rehabilitation Institute.

A group of 672 persons who attended for an average of three months was followed-up 18 months after discharge. At that stage 38% were still unemployed but there was no significant difference between the various diagnostic groups in this respect apart from psychiatric and brain injury patients, who showed significantly less favourable employment prospects.

The results are considered statistically and certain hypotheses are enunciated. One of these, to the effect that the patients referred to the Institute differed from the general population in some respects, was confirmed in so far as the patient group contained more unskilled workers, more single persons, more females, and was of a lower average age. The statistical methods, including a form of regression analysis, are described in detail.

Important conclusions reached are that improvements must be made in the method of treatment of psychiatric disorders, and the need to organize vocational rehabilitation so that it forms part of a continuous process following immediately upon medical or surgical treatment is strongly emphasized.

G. C. FLETCHER

The Eye: Phenomenology and Psychology of Function and Disorder. By J. M. Heaton. (Pp. 336; illustrated; 70s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1968.

In this book the author, an ophthalmologist, has tried to marry some of the concepts of psychology and psychological medicine to clinical ophthalmology. The attempt has met with varying degrees of success.

The author begins by explaining that in his own field and in medicine generally there is too often a tendency to fragment the individual, the physician ignoring all but that particle of immediate interest. Here is an attempt to restore to 'the patient' the concept of a man who in illness has become wholly stressed. The plea is to take stock of the whole situation of the man in the clinic and not just the eye or the lung that he possesses. It should be made clear that Dr. Heaton is not asking that the patient should be treated humanely but that serious attention must be paid to the total function of the individual in order that diagnosis and more especially treatment be accurate and effective.

Following a section on existing methods of study that could be employed to permit communication between the various human sciences, the author takes on a formidable task, a description of 'The World of the Eye and Vision'. In this section and at other points throughout the book Dr. Heaton stresses the importance of the difference between visual world and visual field—concepts that, as he points out, were most thoroughly delineated by J. J. Gibson. Curiously, there is no mention in this context of E. H. Gombrich, whose description and illustrations of the visual world and field have been so

invaluable in the understanding of this often difficult subject.

In many ways this section of the book is the least successful. The author at times seems to have given too little thought to his narrative. Arguments tend to be illustrated by examples that do not bear close scrutiny, and this is particularly so when 'The Unity of the Senses' is described. Later, when considering 'Personality and Perception', the structure of the book seems to fall apart, as we are treated to a fragmented discourse on a variety of disconnected observations. Finally, in this chapter the writer allows his scientific mask to slip as he permits himself a number of unjustified (and irrelevant) observations on the differing natures of men and women.

The third chapter of this section is devoted to the symbolism of the eye and vision. The introduction, as with the introductions to most of his chapters, is good and well thought out. Dr. Heaton is at his best when describing the visual world, its evolution, and its attendant aspects. In penetrating the matter of visual symbols and the symbolism of the eye, the narrative again becomes bitty and inconsequential. His quotations from ancient works have an uncanny knack of failing to support a contention. His anecdotes in some cases are illustrating nothing.

Part III of the book is its principal subject matter, namely, disorders of the eye and vision. This is presumably the marriage of what has been discussed to what ophthalmologists are already familiar with. I am not so competent to judge the content of this section, but what can be said is that in most instances the marriage does not come off. Indeed, we might be reading just another textbook on eye diseases and disorders. The difference in approach is the greater emphasis on non-organic causes of disorder and on the disorders of vision that can accompany or follow other disturbances within the organism. The writing has a tendency in this section to slip occasionally from scientific to dogmatic, the language from the universal to the jargon of a physician's case notes. Little effort is made to expound on the possible specific reasons for a correspondence between visual signs and non-ocular symptoms; the 'why' of a disturbance in psychological terms is rarely touched on. Again, apart from comments here and there on the experience of being in a state of a particular visual disorder, the phenomenology promised in the title is barely in evidence.

It is not until Chapter 12 (on Eye-strain) is reached that the book begins to live a little, for it is here that Dr. Heaton enters his own special territory. From this point until the end of the book we are learning at last what the author has been pressing to teach us—that the eye is part of a system of experience as well as a system of anatomy and that it is sometimes to the former that efforts must be directed in the management of the disorder. In the light of these latter chapters earlier parts of the book become clearer, but by then the reader may not have the stamina to return.

For the student of industrial medicine there are one or two specific points of interest. The dangers are early pointed out of attempting to examine the 'whole' man, armed only with the Maudsley Personality Inventory or some such. On handicaps it is warned that more damage might be done by restoring a long-term sustainer to 'normal', thereby upsetting his life-situation. On

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miners' nystagmus Dr. Heaton has some provocative observations which challenge those of Professor R. C. Browne.

As a whole, the book could not be described as an outstanding success, but Dr. Heaton is to be applauded in his efforts to 'redress some of the lack of balance in modern ophthalmology, in which the Hippocratic habit of observing all the phenomena of disease and their attendant circumstances has been dropped, and instead only facts that can be measured and observed directly are seriously studied'.

W. G. NOBLE

World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics, Volume 8. Ed. Geoffrey H. Bourne. (Pp. 248; 130s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing. 1968.

It is odd these days on opening a book to find no preface indicating how the contributors have been chosen. However, the editor may feel this unnecessary since the layout of this volume follows the pattern laid down in Volumes 6 and 7 of the same series.

The first two chapters are general papers on world food problems, the first by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, which draws freely from the official reports and surveys and hence results in a triteness which does not make for easy reading. Then follows an account of nutrition in Nigeria, in this volume the only representative of regional nutrition survey. The 46-page review of human vitamin B₁₂ deficiency seems out of place in the context of this volume. It is over long and somewhat uncritical, and considerable space has been given to clinical associations of deficiency in vitamin B₁₂ absorption; almost a page is taken up with clinical reports of the association of B₁₂ deficiency with pancreatic disease.

A. D. Care, of the Rowett Research Institute, writes on Magnesium Homeostasis in Ruminants, and there are timely chapters on the Physiological Role of Dietary Carbohydrates and Milk Substitutes based on oilseeds and nuts, and an excellent review on Rickets and Hypercalcaemia in Infancy, by R. G. Mitchell, of Aberdeen.

Excellent of its kind, perhaps the most topical review is that by I. Macdonald on the Physiological Role of Dietary Carbohydrates, in which the relationship of dietary carbohydrate to lipid metabolism is dealt with at some length.

It is difficult to imagine to whom such a volume would appeal in its entirety though it is likely to be well used from library shelves for its individual reviews. Perhaps these review volumes would prove more appealing if the

editor grouped together current topics less diverse in subject matter in a concise, homogeneous annual edition.

H. T. HOWAT

NOTICES**Nicolo Castellino Foundation**

The Nicolo Castellino Foundation of Italy is offering a prize of one million Italian lira (about £700) for original and unpublished work in the field of occupational health. Candidates must be under the age of 36 and must not be university professors. The essay may be written in English, Italian, French, German, or Spanish and should be submitted before the end of April 1969. For further particulars write to the Director-General, Istituto Nazionale per l'Assicurazione contro gli Infortuni sul Lavoro, Rome.

National Plutonium Registry

The formation of a National Plutonium Registry in Richland has been announced. The purpose of the Registry is to maintain records in one place of persons who have minute quantities of plutonium, or other radioactive elements heavier than uranium, in their bodies. The Atomic Energy Commission has awarded the Foundation \$75,000 for the next year to establish and maintain the Registry.

International Conference on Pneumoconiosis

An International Conference on Pneumoconiosis will be held from April 23 to May 2, 1969 in Johannesburg. For information apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference, P.O. Box 4584, Johannesburg.

XI Czechoslovak Congress of Occupational Medicine

The XI Czechoslovak Congress of Occupational Medicine will be held in Usti nad Labem, Northern Bohemia, June 4-6, 1969. For information apply to the Secretary, Krajska hygienicka stanice, Prokopa Divise 1, Usti nad Labem, Czechoslovakia.

International Labour Organisation

The International Labour Office will organize an International Occupational Safety and Health Congress to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from June 30 to July 4, 1969. Additional information and registration forms are obtainable from the International Labour Office, CH 1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland.



The Eye: Phenomenology and Psychology of Function and Disorder

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