do something to reassure those who had been led to believe that "it's all a matter of sex", or for that matter, of conditioned reflexes. This reviewer has only one major regret—he knows of no comparable introductory text written by a British psychologist.

ALASTAIR HERON

Social Psychology. By W. J. H. Sprott. (Pp. xiv + 208. 20s. net.) London: Methuen & Co. 1952.

In the past textbooks on social psychology, nearly all American, were content to serve up a large but often rather disconnected body of empirical findings. During the last few years social psychologists, becoming dissatisfied with such patchwork efforts, have attempted to produce something more systematic. The result was rather curious: a number of different treatises have appeared, mostly claiming to provide "an integrated body of theory and data". Unfortunately such theories are often organized around different sets of principles, selected according to the authors' personal preferences. For instance, whilst one recent book treats man entirely as a "language-manipulating animal", another barely mentions language. The example is, of course, extreme, yet symptomatic of the deficiency of present-day social psychology. There are too many "facts" and not enough unifying concepts for relating the facts within an agreed theoretical framework.

Professor Sprott therefore had a difficult task, which he accomplished most successfully. Without attempting premature system-building, which can only be achieved by leaving out inconvenient material, he presents the most important theories and empirical findings in a highly condensed but coherent manner, doing justice to a variety of complementary modes of approach.

The book is divided into three parts. The first, dealing with "the study of groups", begins with a useful discussion of notions like "culture", "personality", or "social class". Such words are an endless source of confusion when taken as referring to concrete entities. Students tend to cling to a rigid definition of a term like "social class", and are apt to despair if they happen to come across another inconsistent one. Sprott's philosophical background enables him to give a lucid account of the logical status of such terms. He explains that they are models constructed for definite but limited purposes out of the raw material of specific social situations. Such models approximate social reality in varying degrees, without ever completely encompassing it.

This is followed by two chapters on different types of groups, from such general concepts as "mass society" down to experimental studies of face-to-face groups, on which much research is going on just now. Lewin's field theory and Moreno's sociometry are outlined.

The chapter on leadership is somewhat disappointing, being too much concerned with the classification of different kinds of leaders and leaving out such important work as that of Helen Jennings and Ferenc Merai. The remainder of Part I summarizes studies of public opinion and attitude research.

Part II sets out with a description of social determinants in fields that were once thought to be the exclusive prerogative of general psychology. (Incidentally, it is demonstrated here how tenuous the distinction between "general" and "social" has become.) Among these is the concept of the self, where use is made of the theories of G. H. Mead, widely known in the United States but not easily accessible in this country; perception and memory are dealt with, and one of the best sections covers the controversial issue of intelligence. On this "battlefield" Sprott does not take sides, except for recommending that environmental factors should be explored before we fall back upon "innate endowment".

When it comes to the analysis of personality development in culture and the concept of national character, the author's skill in expounding complex theories becomes most apparent. Social psychologists and cultural anthropologists are today agreed that the first few years of life lay the foundation of the adult personality. There is, however, a certain amount of disagreement as to the exact way in which this happens. Sprott accepts the general approach of Linton and Kardiner, showing how it fits in with economic determinism in the wider sense. He has the courage to acknowledge our debt to Marx.

In view of the immature state of social psychology it was perhaps inevitable that the last part of the book, concerned with applications, should be the weakest. In the section on industry the Hawthorne studies, uncritically reported, loom largest. On the other hand there is some reference to the work of Georges Friedmann, whose work in industrial psychology deserves to be more widely known in this country.

The section on psychological medicine contains an interesting discussion of the vexed question of the criteria of "normality". There is also a brief description of various forms of group therapy.

With a book covering such a vast field one can hardly complain if some of one's own favourites have been left out. Perhaps the only serious omission is that of language and other forms of symbolic behaviour, which are increasingly coming into prominence.

Altogether Professor Sprott has produced an admirably clear survey of the fundamental tenets and data of social psychology. Although each page is closely packed, the style is easy, with a minimum of jargon; and all this has been accomplished in about half the usual length of books on social psychology. With these virtues it would be surprising if it did not become the standard introductory text in this country.

G. JAHODA

Psychology for Nurses. By Bess V. Cunningham. Second edition. (Pp. xi + 382. 26s.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1951.

Unlike many second editions, this is an improvement on the first, published in 1946. Dr. Cunningham, who is Professor of Education in the University of Toledo, Ohio, has apparently not been content to provide the conventional "few lectures in psychology for the