BOOK REVIEWS

Dr. Ling is a psychiatrist and medical director of the Roffey Park Institute of Occupational Health and of the Industrial Rehabilitation Centre. Dr. Brown is a psychiatrist with unique industrial experience. Their two books, therefore, should diagnose for us some of the human problems of industry and summarize what is known about the social and individual measures needed for their solution.

Roffey Park has changed and grown since its early post-war days and is now making a considerable contribution to the teaching of the social medicine of industry. A recent international course held there to consider mental health and human relations in industry suggested the need for an account of current thought, teaching, and research, helpful in form and language to doctors, social workers, industrial managers, and entrants to industry from the universities. In his book Dr. Ling and eight other authors attempt to meet this need and, considering the magnitude of their task, they do it very well.

In the 14 papers which make up the book most of the important features of the human environment at work are discussed. They range from the theoretical industrial sociology of group structure and group tensions, through an able but over-simplified treatment of aggressive behaviour in industry, to the more down-to-earth topics of selection procedures and the effects of the physical aspects of the work situation. Three papers are devoted to a consideration of the roles of those usually saddled with the human problems of industry: the personnel manager, the industrial medical officer, and the psychiatrist. The rapidly broadening responsibilities of management in the solution of these problems are emphasized in a final paper on The Implications for Management.

There is a brief note entitled Society and Work which is too short to do justice to the subject, and there are sections describing the teaching techniques which are in use and the rather slow progress of post-war research.

An important omission is an adequate discussion of economic factors in factory morale and in the workman-manager relationship. These factors and the related broad patterns of industry, of trade unionism, employer associations, and nationalization are very important, if only because they are the preoccupation of so many.

The bibliographies which follow each paper are well selected and form a most useful source of reference to the whole subject. The frequency with which the same not very significant works are referred to in successive papers serves only to illustrate the relative poverty of research in this field and the somewhat unsteady foundations of the subject. Fortunately this book is neither so complicated, so theoretical, nor so high powered as the imposing list of overseas editions and the introductory remarks led us to believe. We would have preferred a group of contributors chosen, perhaps, from a wider field than Roffey Park, but this parochialism is understandable and only slightly detracts from the usefulness of the work.

Dr. Ling has produced a book which will be of great value to all those working in industry.

While Dr. Ling aimed at the intellectuals and has produced a popular textbook, Dr. Brown has aimed at a much wider public and has produced a serious philosophical work. His book describes the decline in the social significance of work with the increasingly technical nature of industry. Through the ages this process has led to a situation where physical conditions in industry are often almost perfect but where the need of the individual for status and function remains unsatisfied and where the lunatic rabble hypothesis of every man for himself is generally accepted.

The author is concerned principally with the motivation and with the morale of the small groups of people whose relationships constitute the vital informal organization of industry. He faces squarely the problem to which Sir George Schuster has recently drawn attention, that of the ease with which the increasingly powerful social skills of the industrial (or any other) psychologist may be perverted. He finds in industry good reasons for optimism and suggests that the help which is so often needed by sick industrial communities is not beyond the powers of ordinary people to give, nor is it the exclusive property of the consultant industrial sociologist.

Unfortunately the bibliography is so poor that many of the interesting references in this book cannot be followed. However, it is full of interesting material and will be very widely read.

The psychiatrist working in industry, like other doctors who work there, has got to prove to us that it is not uneconomic to base individual therapeutic services on anything but the family and the home. The material summarized in these books is not wholly successful in this plea. The physical hazards of the factory are plainly the responsibility of industry, but, for the industrial threats to mental health, responsibility is not so easily attributed. However, the need for social therapy in our industrial communities is the main concern of these books. In this they are wholly convincing.

E. MAURICE BACKETT


This well-known textbook has been extensively revised in order to bring it up to date, and extra articles upon the nephrotic syndrome, uraemia, the collagen diseases, and diseases of the intervertebral discs have been included. The text is strictly clinical in its character. It follows the classical pattern of description of diseases, those due to generalized infections, intoxications, or parasites coming first, followed by separate sections on diseases of the various systems of the body. Some of these sections have good, simple introductions on the anatomy and physiology of the relevant system, and on the ways in which they may be disturbed in disease.

Occupational diseases are mentioned briefly under their appropriate systems. The descriptions are readable, concise, and quite sufficient for the student working for his qualifying examinations. In some cases they seem
unnecessarily long, and there is some lack of balance, thus enteric fever and diphtheria each get eight pages, while neoplasm of the lung and chronic bronchitis get respectively two and one and a half pages. The sampling process of a reviewer may not be quite random, but it revealed some unexpected errors and omissions. The article on pneumoconiosis is many years out of date and most misleading. The myths of circus movement in auricular flutter, and of the high protein content of nephritic oedema are perpetuated, and there is no mention of respiratory alkalosis or acidosis, nor of the Borst régime for anuria. The lucid account of the pathogenesis of hypertension makes no mention of the adrenals and salt retention, nor are insulin antagonists mentioned in diabetes. Details of clinical procedures such as lumbar puncture are deliberately omitted and perhaps one should not expect a reference to the cardiac catheter, but it is surprising to find no account of the technique of estimating venous pressure from the jugular veins. The index is full but has the curious property of redundant references to some subjects; there are seven references to sarcoidosis all on the same two pages and no reference to others such as shock or benign pericarditis.

Appendices on the treatment of disease by antibacterial drugs and by cortisone and A.C.T.H. summarize the position of these rapidly advancing fields at the time of going to press. Within the end covers there are tables of normal results of clinico-pathological tests (but expressed in the old milligrams per 100 millilitres instead of milli-equivalents), a conversion table from the apothecaries to the metric systems (in the text either or both are used), and a table of equivalents in official preparations of some popular proprietary drugs.

This all adds up to a useful book for students, but one which will not satisfy his scientific curiosity, or tell him where to go to do so. It will not tell him much about the principles of medicine, but it will guide his practice safely along orthodox channels.

C. M. FLETCHER


The first volume of this work, which covered the years 1926 to 1938, contained 347 pages. The second volume, which brings the history up to 1950, contains 518 pages. Considering that the second period included the war years when very little was published, the rate of increase of literature on the subject of pneumoconiosis (as indeed on most subjects) is alarming.

All workers in the field who are striving to keep their heads above water in this state of literature owe a debt of gratitude to the Bulletin of Hygiene and to Dr. E. L. Middleton who has again selected and arranged the abstracts. Another volume will undoubtedly be required in less than 12 years if it is not to be of unwieldy size, and it is to be hoped that it will be produced by the same capable hands.

B. M. WRIGHT


Dr. Alice Heim is well known as the author of two important intelligence tests, A.H.4 and A.H.5; the former was used in naval selection, the latter by the Civil Service Selection Board, and both have been the subject of a good deal of investigation. She is therefore clearly equipped to deal authoritatively with the testing of intelligence.

In this book she sets out to discuss the pitfalls of the would-be test constructor and user, and the result is an entertaining disquisition on her opinions of present-day psychologists and their theories. In particular, Dr. Heim makes a spirited attack upon the general usefulness of factor analysis and does not disguise her sympathy for the intuitive rather than the statistical approach to testing.

She starts with an inquiry into what is meant by intelligence, and suggests that as it is so flexible a concept it is misleading to consider it something which can be tested accurately. She prefers "intelligent activity" to intelligence, and believes that two qualitatively different forms of activity may be equally intelligent in a given situation. From this she goes on to castigate the factor analysts, the majority of whom she believes are prepared to label statistical artifacts "intelligence" without any valid grounds for doing. After discussing the concepts of reliability and validity she moves to ground with which she is particularly familiar—the difference between results obtained from tests given with and without time limits. The book ends rather surprisingly with a chapter which says that "an intelligence test can be an exceedingly valuable instrument".

This useful little book should be read by all who make routine use of tests—and not only intelligence tests. It is probably too technical for those who have little testing experience, while to the research worker it will (or should) offer little that is novel. It leaves one with the impression that Dr. Heim is tilting at windmills. Here and there she admits that her objections may not be wholly general (as, for instance, when she admits that there are factor analysts whose claims are modest and whose conclusions are of value). It is certainly true that the term "intelligence test" is liable to introduce semantic difficulties because most people regard intelligence as synonymous with commonsense, whilst the majority of test constructors tend to narrow its meaning. It is also true that the "g" found in one battery of tests is often assumed to be more or less the same as the "g" found in another battery. It is true that the term "reliability" can be ambiguous and that there are several possible sources of unreliability when testing. Yet, in spite of these drawbacks, intelligence tests work; and if this point were made at the beginning of the book instead of at the end it would enable the reader to put Dr. Heim's criticisms more clearly in perspective.

To answer her objections in detail is beyond the scope of this note, but it may be useful to indicate the less pessimistic view. Most psychologists would agree that the label "intelligence test" is unsatisfactory and that "g test" is not much better. Most serious workers are