

The book will not only be of great value to respiratory physiologists themselves but should interest clinicians and, one hopes, scientists in other fields who want to know about what's new and exciting in the thoughts of those engaged in work on the physiology of the lung. It should encourage co-operation between workers trained in these different disciplines, and will certainly be a stimulus and valuable review for those already dedicated to this field of work.

P. HUGH-JONES.

Rhodesian Study

African Background. The Traditional Culture of the Shona-speaking People. By Michael Gelfand. (Pp. 132; illustrated. 37s. 6d.) Capetown, Wynberg, and Johannesburg: Juta. 1965.

Professor Gelfand, one of Rhodesia's busiest physicians, has followed up his book *The Witch Doctor* (B.M.J., 1965, 9 January, p. 115) with this account of the family life and ethical behaviour of 3½ million Shona-speaking people of Rhodesia. Dr. Gelfand believes that the witch doctor is the greatest single bar to the progress of the natives of Africa.

The Shona people, with their patrilineal mode of inheritance, live in close-knit clans, each with its own totem, but marriages are arranged outside the clan. The family unit is basic in Shona life; family bonds are not broken by death, for ancestral spirits have a most important influence in family decisions and conduct. No Shona feels that he has attained a proper status in society until he is a grandfather. In Shona society exemplary manners take high place, and respect of the younger generation for the elder is universal. There is no teenage problem. The all-pervading fear of witchcraft enforces an almost unbelievable degree of conformity, and accounts for a general unwillingness to help non-kin in distress. The Shona faith, with its monotheistic basic principles, leads all the people to possess more or less the same, to eschew all ambition towards individual betterment, and to enjoy the material benefits of life equally. Gelfand believes that Africa has produced few men of genius, but finds that mental retardation is rare in Africans compared with the state of affairs among Europeans. In Africa the trend is more towards a norm with fewer extremes on either side.

Dr. Walter Adams, principal of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, provides an introduction, and the Rev.

Father M. Hannan, S.J., contributes a chapter on Shona language and culture. This book is readable and timely, for it is incumbent on all Britons at the present time to know what the inhabitants of Rhodesia are really like.

GEORGE R. McROBERT.

Psychotic Patient

Studies on Psychosis. Descriptive, Psycho-analytic, and Psychological Aspects. By Thomas Freeman, John L. Cameron, and Andrew McGhie. (Pp. 245. 35s.) London: Tavistock. 1965.

The Annual Survey of Psychoanalysis. Vol. viii. 1957. Edited by John Frosch, M.D., and Nathaniel Ross, M.D. (Pp. 371 + xiii. £5.) London: Hogarth. 1965.

In 1895 Freud and Breuer published their classical book *Studies on Hysteria*. Now, 70 years later, Freeman and his colleagues present us with *Studies on Psychosis*. Apart from the title the link with Freud's views is tenuous. Recent psycho-analytic theories on psychosis are hardly compatible with those of Freud's, as Freeman's excellent survey of the relevant literature makes quite clear. He also makes it clear that the psycho-analytic axiom that "all psychotic phenomena have a background of unconscious conflict . . . can never be subjected to clinical or psychological testing, because it is essentially a subjective interpretation of clinical data." However, all axioms aside, the claim is made that psycho-analytic technique is unsurpassed as an instrument when it comes to eliciting the subjective experiences of psychotic patients. A new classification of functional psychoses is therefore suggested to replace that of Kraepelin. "The clinical psychiatrist," so the argument runs, "has to classify a psychotic state and make a diagnosis solely on the basis of observable phenomena . . . the phenomena mostly consist of the patient's subjective experiences, and this increases the extent of observer error." Freeman wishes to base his classification on seven criteria, which begin with "object-relationship capacity" and "affective reactions," and end with "hallucinations" and "delusions." The implication is that these criteria, obtained during psycho-analysis, are free from observer error.

The most satisfactory chapter of the book is McGhie's report on the psychological testing of schizophrenic patients. Hebephrenics were found to be highly distractable, especially when engaged on tasks of a visual nature. They have difficulties in the short-term

retention of visual as opposed to aural information. The last chapter consists of Cameron's account of the management and psycho-analytic treatment of schizophrenics in an expensive private hospital in the United States. He has some interesting suggestions to make about their administrative handling. It is, however, sad to read that some of them had to be subdued by "three hefty male nurses," or placed in physical restraint, to ensure the continuation of a form of therapy that usually drags on for years. Would it not have been more humane to combine their psycho-analysis with physical and chemical forms of treatment of proved value, which could have prevented the need for such measures?

The *Annual Survey of Psychoanalysis* reports, in 1965, on psycho-analytic papers published in 1957. The time lag interferes with its value as a reference work.

F. KRÄUPL TAYLOR.

Chromosome Disorders

The Chromosome Disorders. An Introduction for Clinicians. By G. H. Valentine, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.C.H., F.R.C.P.(C). (Pp. 129 + x; illustrated. 25s.) London: William Heinemann. 1966.

This book has been written for practising physicians and medical students, and in this context it adequately covers the subject of chromosome disorders in man. It is very readable.

The first chapter covers the organization of the cell, the nature and function of the chromosomes, and the significance of sex chromatin. The second and third chapters are concerned with normal meiosis and mitosis, the errors which may occur in these, and their resultant abnormalities in both chromosome number and structure. The fourth chapter provides an excellent introduction to the subject of dermatoglyphics. The remainder of the book is devoted to the clinical description of patients with abnormalities of the autosomal and sex chromosome complements, together with photographs of their respective karyotypes and an explanation of these. The photographs illustrating the phenotypic abnormalities found in each syndrome are of a high standard.

The text is up to date except for a few recent developments. The only major criticism is that the introductory section dealing with the nature and function of chromosomes is perhaps a little oversimplified.

D. J. MANTLE.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Mathematics in Medicine and the Life Sciences. By George R. Stibitz, Ph.D. (Pp. 391; illustrated. 94s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1965.

Griefs and Discontents. The Forces of Change. By Gregory Rochlin, M.D. (Pp. 403 + xv. 65s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1965.

Recidivism: A Deficiency Disease. By Alastair W. MacLeod. (Pp. 131. 36s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1966.

Manter's Essentials of Clinical Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology. 3rd edition. By Arthur J. Gatz, Ph.D. (Pp. 136 + viii; illustrated. 28s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

Hals-Nasen-Ohren-Heilkunde. Vol. 3, Part 2. Ohr. Edited by Prof. F. Zöllner. (Pp. 993-1,696 + xv; illustrated. DM. 220.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1966.

The Development of the Infant and Young Child. Normal and Abnormal. 3rd edition. By R. S. Illingworth, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. (Pp. 378 + ix; illustrated. 37s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

The Veins. Normal and Abnormal Function. By J. Edwin Wood, M.D. (Pp. 224 + xvi; illustrated. 70s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1965.

The Year Book of the Ear, Nose and Throat. 1965-1966 Series. Edited by John R. Lindsay, M.D., Dean M. Lierle, M.D., and William C. Huffman, M.D. (Pp. 351; illustrated. 68s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.

Nuove Proposte Dottorinali. Nuove Scoperte e Nuove Tecniche in Emoangiimmunologia ed in Oncologia. By E. Brianti. (Pp. 190 + viii; illustrated. No price given.) Parma: Casa Editrice Tipografie Riunite Donati. 1965.