

Hallucinatory Drugs

The Varieties of Psychedelic Experience. By R. E. L. Masters and Jean Houston. (Pp. 326. 84s.) London: Anthony Blond. 1967.

R. E. L. Masters, who is a popular and prolific American writer on matters of sex, has now joined his wife, Jean Houston, in producing a book on an even more immediately topical subject. It discusses their findings in over ten years of giving the psychedelic drugs to a wide variety of people. Then it became illegal in the U.S.A. for L.S.D. to be given or used without medical supervision. Their work has therefore stopped, as neither of the authors is a qualified doctor.

The book does little more than tread all the old ground of those doctors who, for the past 30 years or more, have tested these

drugs experimentally and therapeutically, and have recorded their good and bad phenomena and side-effects. Only very limited therapeutic benefits have been obtained. Most of the people given the drug and discussed in this book must come under the heading of "normal," but in the widest range of its meaning. The authors attach great importance to the role of the so-called "guide," who stays with the patient and helps to control what is experienced by the subject under the drug. The guide directs the delusional and hallucinatory material into what are thought to be the best insight channels for each individual. L.S.D., mescaline, and the like are probably the most useful drugs for imposing on others the lessons we feel they need to learn. If the guide is interested in birth trauma most of his subjects tend to obtain startling experience of it. Many will interpret any experiences they get under the

drug along such lines—or along Freudian or Jungian lines if that is their guide's own speciality.

The book does not tell us when these drugs should and should not be used, and it gives no advice on the handling of the psychiatric emergencies that are bound to arise. The results of giving hallucinatory drugs, as recorded in this book, remain as speculative as ever in terms of human benefit, especially to those still unconvinced that they do anything but create new delusions and hallucinations for the patient, and mainly serve to encourage abreaction about what is being experienced or supposedly remembered. Moreover, present guides, with their own special beliefs and viewpoints, are rarely the ones best equipped to sort the true from the false.

WILLIAM SARGANT.

Books Received

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

Symposia Series in Immunobiological Standardization. Vol. 3. International Symposium on Biotechnical Developments in Bacterial Vaccine Production. Edited by R. H. Regamey, H. Hennessen, D. Ikkic, and J. Ungar. (Pp. 240 + xii; illustrated. 5Fr./DM. 52.50.) Basel and New York: S. Karger. 1967.

Nursing Mathematics. By Margaret Rosier, S.R.N., H.V., A.I.H.E. (Pp. 242; illustrated. 13s. 6d.) London: Oxford University Press. 1967.

Principles of Head and Neck Surgery. By H. Robert Freund, M.D., with six contributors. Illustrated by Gottfried W. Goldenberg. (Pp. 337 + xi; illustrated. \$12.50.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1967.

Pesticides and Pollution. The New Naturalist Series. By Kenneth Mellanby. (Pp. 221; illustrated. 30s.) London: Collins. 1967.

Clinical Judgment. By Alvan R. Feinstein, M.D. (Pp. 414 + vii; illustrated. 76s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

Childbearing. Its Social and Psychological Aspects. Edited by Stephen A. Richardson, Ph.D., and Alan F. Guttmacher, M.D. (Pp. 334 + xvii. 68s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

Röntgen Diagnosis of Diseases of Bone. By Jack Edeiken, M.D., and Philip J. Hodes, M.D. (Pp. 701 + v; illustrated. £12 16s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry. Edited by Alfred M. Freedman, M.D., and Harold I. Kaplan, M.D. (Pp. 1666 + xxv; illustrated. £9 18s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

Textbook of Gynecology. 4th edition. By John I. Brewer, B.S., M.D., Ph.D., and Edwin J. de Costa, B.S., M.D. (Pp. 918 + xxviii; illustrated. £6 16s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

Medical Shorthand. By Phyllis E. Davis and Nancy V. Hershelman. (Pp. 317 + ix. 50s.) London: John Wiley. 1967.

Lectures on Preventive Cardiology. By Jeremiah Stamler, M.D. (Pp. 434 + xiv; illustrated. \$18.75.) London and New York: Grune & Stratton. 1967.

Nutrition. By Rudolf Hauschka, D.Sc. Translated from the German by Marjorie Spock and Mary T. Richards. (Pp. 212 + xi; illustrated. 55s.) London: Stuart & Watkins. 1967.

Molecular Basis of Some Aspects of Mental Activity. Vol. 1. Edited by Otto Walaas. (Pp. 476 + xv; illustrated. £5 10s.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1967.

Molecular Basis of Some Aspects of Mental Activity. Vol. 2. Edited by Otto Walaas. (Pp. 515 + xv; illustrated. £6 6s.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1967.

Pathologic Physiology. Mechanisms of Disease. 4th edition. By William A. Sodeman, M.D., Sc.D., F.A.C.P., and William Sodeman, jun., M.D. (Pp. 1051 + xxi; illustrated. £6 13s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1967.

The Vesico-Vaginal Fistula. 2nd edition. By J. Chassar Moir, C.B.E., M.D. Edinb., M.A. Oxon., D.M. Oxon., F.R.C.S. (Edinb.), F.R.C.O.G., Hon. L.L.D. Queen's University, Ontario, Hon. M.M.S.A. (Pp. 196 + ix; illustrated. 60s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1967.

The Use of Antibodies in the Study of Blood Coagulation. By K. W. E. Denson, D.Phil. (Oxon.). Foreword by R. C. MacFarlane, C.B.E., M.A. (Oxon.), M.D. (Lond.), F.R.S. (Pp. 244 + ix. 52s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1967.

Neurosis in the Ordinary Family. A Psychiatric Survey. By Anthony Ryle, D.M. (Pp. 155. 32s. 6d.) London: Tavistock. 1967.

Histologie und Zytologie des Menschen. Einführung für Ärzte und Studenten. By Professor H. Leonhardt. (Pp. 407 + viii; illustrated. DM. 10.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

Anatomische Bildnomenklatur. By Professor Heinz Feneis. (Pp. 438 + vi; illustrated. DM. 14.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

Case Development Problems in Hematology. Series 1: The Red Cell, Problems 1-8. By John W. Harris, M.D., and Daniel L. Horrigan, M.D. (Pp. 196. 26s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1967.

The Science Century. By Magnus Pyke. (Pp. 183 + x; illustrated. 30s.) London: John Murray. 1967.

The Psycho-Analytical Process. By Donald Meltzer, M.D. (Pp. 109 + xvii. 20s.) London: William Heinemann. 1967.

The American Male. By Myron Brenton. (Pp. 252. 28s.) London: George Allen & Unwin. 1967.

Quality Control in the Food Industry. Vol. 1. 1967. Edited by S. M. Herschdoerfer. (Pp. 385 + xiv. 90s.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1967.

Elektronenmikroskopische Organpathologie. By Professor Heinz David. (Pp. 711 + xx; illustrated. £10 2s. 1d.) Jena: Volk und Gesundheit. 1967.

Alcohol and Traffic Safety. Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Alcohol and Traffic Safety. (Pp. 353 + xiii. \$10.00.) Bloomington, Indiana: Department of Police Administration, Indiana University. 1966.

Personality and Arousal. A psychophysiological Study of Psychiatric Disorder. By Gordon S. Claridge. (Pp. 274 + xviii. 70s.) Oxford: Pergamon. 1967.

Advances in Veterinary Science. Vol. 11. Edited by C. A. Brandy and Charles Cornelius. (Pp. 404 + xvi; illustrated. £6 16s.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1967.

Gout. 3rd edition. By John H. Talbott, A.B., M.D., D.Sc. (Hon.). (Pp. 296 + x; illustrated. £12.50.) London and New York: Grune & Stratton. 1967.

The History of Psychiatry. An Evaluation of Psychiatric Thought and Practice from Prehistoric Times to the Present. By Franz G. Alexander, M.D., and Sheldon T. Selesnick, M.D. (Pp. 471 + xiv; illustrated. 63s.) London: George Allen & Unwin. 1967.

Antilymphocytic Serum. Ciba Foundation Study Group. No. 29. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., F.R.C.P., F.I.Biol., and Maeve O'Connor, B.A. (Pp. 165 + x; illustrated. 24s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

The Medical Annual. A Year Book of Treatment and Practitioners' Index. 85th year. Edited by Sir Ronald Bodley Scott, K.C.V.O., M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., and R. Milnes Walker, C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. (Hon.). (Pp. 654 + xxiv; illustrated. 52s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1967.

Myotatic, Kinesthetic and Vestibular Mechanisms. Ciba Foundation Symposium. Edited by A. V. S. de Reuck and Julie Knight. (Pp. 331 + xi; illustrated. 65s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

Assisting the General Practitioner. A Manual for the Doctor's Secretary, Receptionist, and Surgery Nurse. By M. D. Mackichan, B.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Pp. 264 + xii; illustrated. 35s.) London: Pitman. 1967.