

Non-responsive Child

The Nature of Childhood Autism. 2nd. edn. Gerald O'Gorman, F.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 163; 48s.) Butterworths. 1970.

The term "autism" has become a fashionable label for children who fail to make normal social adaptation. O'Gorman's small text on this subject was first published in 1967 and has now run to a second edition, which is perhaps a measure of the interest in the topic. He draws attention—as many others have done—to the higher intelligence and social status of parents of autistic children, and suggests there is a danger that children of intelligent parents may have abnormally sensitive brains which cannot stand up to adverse circumstances. A major difficulty in considering the distribution of such a nebulous and ill-defined condition is that there may be a considerable bias in selection of cases. Literate parents who have a child which is failing to progress are more willing to accept that their child is "autistic" than that it is "subnormal." Professional advisers readily accept mental retardation as a diagnosis for children of dull parents, but are impelled to seek for some more subtle explanation in children of more gifted parents. Intelligent parents often try very hard to help their backward child to overcome his handicaps. This may distort a simple picture, producing special facility at certain tasks or in conversation which gives the child an "old-fashioned" air or produces incongruity. Other backward children subjected to pressure become negativistic and disturbed—features which may be interpreted as autism.

Be this as it may, Dr. O'Gorman's book is a valuable contribution to the subject in that his case histories give a first hand account to those who are unfamiliar with a subject of what one psychiatrist means by infantile autism. The author is clearly an enthusiast and has done much at Smith's Hospital to make special provision for the mentally disturbed children in the care of the hospital group. He has also used his influence to draw public and professional attention to the special problems presented by this group of children.

One of the most unfortunate features of the story of autism has been the tendency to

blame the mother for the child's condition. Dr. O'Gorman stresses the importance of failure of mother-child relationship, but he does point out that it is difficult for the mother to continue to respond warmly to a child who does not reciprocate, in that the mother gets no emotional "feed-back," no reward.

Dr. O'Gorman's account is highly individual and his interpretations are open to debate, but he presents a graphic account of the subject.

BRIAN KIRMAN.

Haemorrhagic Diatheses

Bleeding Problems in Clinical Medicine. Armand J. Quick, M.D. (Pp. 225; 81s.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

No one has done more to develop the scientific analysis of clinical problems involving excessive bleeding than Professor Quick. In this book he outlines the techniques employed, and then devotes the bulk of the space to showing how patients with every variety of bleeding disease were sorted out in his practice. For illustrations he is able to draw on a large personal file of individually observed patients. The cases are divided into those suffering from "vasopathy, thrombopathy or coagulopathy," and both the common syndromes and the rare ones are described and illustrated.

Professor Quick has firm ideas on the best methods and their interpretation, and not every one will agree with all his ideas. His "aspirin tolerance test," for example, has not given such useful results in the hands of others and is not often employed. Finally he devotes a long chapter to the genetic aspects of inherited bleeding diseases. Here he is able to assemble a truly unique set of examples of inherited deficiencies of clotting factors apart from the commoner haemophilia syndromes, and he also describes inherited platelet deficiencies, congenital hyperheparinaemia, and telangiectasia. The von Willebrand group are dealt with at some length in more than one section of the book, and Professor Quick thinks

that these cases are relatively frequent.

This book will interest and inform any haematologist who has to deal with this group of diseases.

M. C. G. ISRAËLS.

Disordered Psyche

The Physician's Guide to Managing Emotional Problems. A. H. Chapman, M.D. (Pp. 373; 110s.) Blackwell. 1970.

It has been estimated that some 30-50% of the patients of family doctors, physicians, and paediatricians consult them for complaints which are largely or wholly emotional in origin, yet neither medical nor psychiatric textbooks offer much practical guidance on their management. This book, a revised and enlarged edition of the author's *Management of Emotional Disorders*, goes a long way to filling this gap. Its orientation is basically though not obtrusively psycho-analytical, but its approach is both highly professional and thoroughly practical, as is illustrated by the description not only of when, but also of how, to spank a naughty child.

Among the topics dealt with, in addition to the usual neurotic reactions, are enuresis, school refusal, and other phobias in childhood, grief reactions, marital and sexual conflicts, alcoholism, and the emotional difficulties associated with mental retardation and organic brain disease. In each case the author is at pains to make clear when, in his opinion, referral to a psychiatrist is necessary. A final section on interviewing techniques allows the reader to compare the approach advocated by the author with his own practice.

The book is very well written, clear and free from jargon. It can be confidently recommended, particularly to family doctors because of its wide range. The sections on asthma, peptic ulcer, and other common psychosomatic disorders will be of interest to physicians who may also find reasons, in the excellent account of the common personality disorders, why patients with the same diseases do not always respond to the same treatment in quite the same way.

D. W. K. KAY.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later

The Histogenesis of Thyroid Cancer. N. Simionescu. (Pp. 173; 180s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Textbook of Vectorcardiography. Richard J. Kennedy, M.D. (Pp. 401; \$17.50.) Harper & Row. 1970.

The Adolescent Patient. William A. Daniel, jun., M.D. (Pp. 444; 185s.) Henry Kimpton. 1970.

The Formation of Nerve Connections. R. M. Gaze, F.R.S.E., D.Phil. (Pp. 288; 80s.) Academic Press. 1970.

An Atlas of Placental Fine Structure. Nils Björkman, V.M.D. (Pp. 96; 90s.) Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1970.

Witchcraft in Tudor and Stuart England. Alan Macfarlane, D. Phil. (Pp. 334; 90s.) Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1970.

The Conquest of Deafness. Ruth E. Bender, Ph.D. (Pp. 243; 72s.) The Press of Case Western Reserve University. 1970.

Family Story: The Drages of Hatfield. Charles Drage. (Pp. 223; 45s.) Stellar Press. 1970.

Medicine: An Outline for the Intending Student. Ed. E. D. Acheson, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 159; 35s. Cloth, 16s. Paperback.) Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1970.

Fifty Years of the Tavistock Clinic. H. V. Dicks, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 415; 84s.) Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1970.

Ethics and Judgement in Surgery and Medicine. Paul Stringer, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 126; 12s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Essential Principles of Psychiatry. Sidney Crown, D.P.M. (Pp. 297; 60s.) Pitman. 1970.

Medical Emergencies, Diagnosis and Management. R. O. Robinson, M.R.C.P. (Pp. 216; 25s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Psychological Experiments with Autistic Children. B. Hermelin, Ph.D., and N. O'Connor, Ph.D. (Pp. 142; 60s.) Pergamon Press. 1970.

Illness and General Practice: A Survey of Medical Care in an Inland Population in South-East Norway. Bent Guttorm Bentsen, M.D. (Pp. 192; N.Kr. 96.) Universitetsforlaget. 1970.

Biochemistry. R. W. McGilvery. (Pp. 796; 140s.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

An Introduction to Metabolic Pathways. S. Dagley, D.Sc. and D. E. Nicholson, Ph.D., F.I.Biol. (Pp. 343; 75s.) Blackwell. 1970.

Spinal Manipulation. J. F. Bourdillon, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 150; 35s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Corscaden's Gynecologic Cancer. 4th edn. S. B. Gusberg, M.D., and H. C. Frick, II, M.D. (Pp. 628; 230s.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

Radioactive Nuclides in Medicine and Biology. 3rd edn. Basic Physics and Instrumentation. Edith H. Quimby, Sc.D. et al. (Pp. 390; 112s.) Henry Kimpton. 1970.