

Psychiatrie Der Gegenwart—Forschung und Praxis Band. T/Teil/B: 1. Grundlagenforschung zur Psychiatrie

Edited by H. W. Gruhle *et al.*

Springer-Verlag, Berlin-West, 1964, 529 pp., figs. DM 84—

This is another part of the first volume of the great new handbook which appears under the name *Grundlagenforschung zur Psychiatrie*. This new volume deals with basic research in psychiatry and is a true international achievement, demonstrating to what degree modern science has become an international affair.

Part I, which appeared in English, is written by the well-known biochemist, Heinrich Waelsch, New York, and Hans Weil-Malherbe, Washington. These two names alone indicate that the chapter gives a comprehensive view of the newest work, although, of course, the preparation of such extensive an enterprise demands years. The chapter provides at its end 22 closely spaced pages of bibliography which cover the field to some publications as late as 1962.

The second chapter, "Metabolic Pathology of Psychoses," is written by Carl Riebeling, Hamburg, who passed away before he was able to take care personally of the last corrections, which have been provided by H. Albrecht and G. Zahn. The chapter is mainly concerned with basic research from which the investigator may hope to reach a better understanding of the pathological metabolism of the various psychoses. The time has not yet come where actual observations on different psychoses are available in sufficient number to provide practical means for a differential diagnosis.

The next chapter, "Endocrinological Psychiatry," is written by Manfred Bleuler, Zurich. M. Bleuler has spent more time than any other living psychiatrist on endocrine problems in this field. His chapter, which was rewritten in 1961 and brought up to date still further through additions, represents the most comprehensive review of his own work as well as the research of his contemporaries. The chapter deals with the different psychological and psychiatric manifestations which are produced through endocrine disorders. Thus, the different endo-

crine glands are considered and the psychopathology of their dysfunction discussed. While Bleuler may have originally hoped that the analysis of psychotic disorders might lead to significant discoveries of endocrine metabolism, his present view is much more reserved in acknowledging that causative relationship between any of the well-known psychotic disorders and a specific endocrine system does not exist.

The next chapter, "Neuroradiology and Psychiatry," by Gerd Huber, Bonn, gives a very useful, comprehensive review of radiological findings in various disorders. The chapter demonstrates again the necessity of taking skull X-ray films in mental hospitals, since quite a number of patients who are diagnosed as schizophrenic or classified under other labels show more or less conspicuous brain pathology, so that a more definite diagnosis can be achieved and more adequate procedures for the treatment provided.

The next chapter, "Behavior Research in Psychiatry," is written by Detlev Ploog, Munich, who is director, at The Max Planck Institute in Munich, of one of the most modern experimental behavior laboratories. Ploog combines in his approach the most universal understanding of experimental behavior research. Having worked in the United States for several years, where he became thoroughly familiar with the extensive work of American neurosurgical research, as carried out in the laboratories of P. D. MacLean and countless others, Ploog is well aware of emotion and psychodynamics, which knowledge prevents him from taking a one-sided approach. Ploog's research leads directly to studies in the social behavior of animals and, in its last analysis, of man. This chapter of over 130 pages comprises a great wealth of information and the 20 pages of densely printed bibliography refer to 820 publications.

The next chapter, "Condition Reflexes and The Development of Russian Psychiatry," is written by W. A. Giljarowsky, Moscow, who unfortunately also passed away before he could witness the publication of his chapter. With the increased interest of American psychiatry in the thinking of their Russian peers, this chapter provides a very useful authoritative introduction to Russian concepts. The American psychia-

trist often has difficulties in following this mode of thinking in which mental processes are represented strictly in terms of mechanisms, the brain being the machine which produces the mental processes. However, it may be useful to pay attention to mental conditioning, which plays such an important role in animal and human behavior. What is often called "compulsion for repetition" is certainly more clearly expressed by recognizing that behavior patterns are always structured, and that it is difficult to break them and create new modes of reaction.

In general this volume, in its universality, is of extreme importance, and even the American reader who is not too familiar with the German language will find a wealth of useful information in the valuable charts, statistics, summaries, and bibliographies.

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Psychoanalysis and the Human Situation

Edited by Jessie Marmorston, M.D., and Edward Stainbrook, Ph.D., M.D.

Vantage Press, Inc., New York, 1964, 270 pp., 1 table, \$4.95.

This book commemorates the seventieth birthday of Franz Alexander. It is composed of a series of speeches given at the Symposium on Psychoanalysis held in Los Angeles in honor of Dr. Alexander and a panel discussion on psychoanalysis and medical education. The contributions deal mainly with the role of psychoanalysis in our present society, its current status, its potential value as a science, its relationship to the social and natural sciences, its advantages, and its shortcomings. A theme throughout the book, which undoubtedly reflects Alexander's inquiring attitude and quest for knowledge, is the need to "integrate the science of personality with the neighboring fields of biologic and social sciences, and, above all, to liquidate the complacent resting on the laurels of past achievements."

The first section, "Profiles of Franz Alexander," is composed of three separate impressions by Drs. Martin Grotjahn, Henry Brosin, and May Romm. A glaring error, especially to a reviewer for this journal, occurs in Dr. Grotjahn's statement: "In 1930

he [Alexander] founded together with Flanders Dunbar, Carl Binger, and others, *The Journal for Psychoanalytic Medicine*, for which he wrote the opening article and in which he published most of his reports on progress of his research in psychoanalytic medicine." Apparently Dr. Grotjahn is referring to the founding of *this* journal in 1939. Three contributions on psychoanalysis and the human condition, as history, and as a method of re-education by Drs. Franz Alexander, Hans Meyerhoff, and Edith Weigert respectively are excellent and, in this reviewer's opinion, the highlights of the symposium. The remaining contributions, on such subjects as psychotherapy, psychoanalytic theory, and psychosomatic research, are either unduly long, noncontributory, or obscure. The panel on psychoanalysis and medical education, composed of the "summary remarks" of various speakers, is particularly disappointing and adds little to the important and complex subject to which it is directed.

This publication does present the reader with some aspects and the scope of modern-day psychoanalysis, many of the problems with which it is faced, and the tasks before it. It brings together many of the outstanding psychoanalysts in the country today. Considering these factors, this book will be of interest to and worthwhile reading for many psychiatrists and social scientists. There are similarities, however, between it and the "instant textbook," recently described by Feinstein (Feinstein, A. R., *J.A.M.A.* 189:135, 1964), as "a new literary phenomenon" in which "the necessary ingredients are an assemblage of authors lecturing at a three-day symposium, a method of rapid transcription of the lectures, and the collected talents of a master of ceremonies—called 'editor'—who prods contributors and sends manuscripts to a willing (and often subsidized) publisher." Although some of the contributions are of merit, one wonders as to the need of publishing this symposium as a book and not as separate articles in respectable medical, psychiatric, and psychoanalytic journals. Surely Dr. Alexander's contributions to psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine, and psychoanalysis stand on their own merit and without need for such publications as this one.

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PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE