

in Britain, Australia and the United States. The editor, himself a British general practitioner, ensures the representation of his standpoint by contributing a preface and six of the fourteen chapters.

DRUG TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS Edited by L. L. Simpson. (Pp. 323; illustrated; \$13.50.) Raven Press: New York. 1976.

PREDICTABILITY IN PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY: PRECLINICAL AND CLINICAL CORRELATIONS Edited by A. Sudilovsky, S. Gershon and B. Beer. (Pp. 303; illustrated; \$22.50.) Raven Press: New York. 1975.

Since there is a limited number of ways in which the same material can be presented, the psychopharmacology book-makers have to seek new pretexts for their productions. The editor of *Drug Treatment of Mental Disorders* claims that the book is for busy physicians and research workers with insufficient time for a more comprehensive text. But do we really need another flurry of reviews of the current status of pharmacological treatments in psychiatry, even when prepared by a group of more respectable North American workers? The question is underlined by the second volume, which turns out to be based on the edited proceedings of a symposium organized by the Squibb Institute for Medical Research in 1974. The accurate prediction of the therapeutic efficacy of psychotropic compounds at an early stage of their development is obviously of commercial as well as scientific importance. However, the papers and discussions (again from a good all-American group of contributors) make it clear how little is known about the scientific underpinning of pharmacotherapy in this field.

THE HISTORY OF CHILDHOOD Edited by L. de Mause. (Pp. 450; £5.00.) Souvenir Press: London. 1976.

The publication of Philippe Ariès' book *Centuries of Childhood* appears to have stimulated historical sociologists to expand the repertoire of their research interests, as may be illustrated by the work on the English family by the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. At the same time, however, some historians, especially in the United States, have turned to the Association for Applied Psychoanalysis to try and develop what the editor of this volume calls a 'psychogenic theory of history'. The ten contributors are all professional historians who have written an interesting collection of essays on children, parents and childhood in different epochs and different places. The facts, many of them disquieting, speak for themselves and can be studied without regard to psychological theory.

BOOKS RECEIVED

LIFE AFTER LIFE By Raymond A. Moody Jr. (Pp. 125; \$5.95.) Stackpole: Harrisburg. 1976.

THE FORBIDDEN LOVE Edited by W. Kraemer. (Pp. 150; £2.50.) Sheldon Press: London. 1976.

MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE TOKEN ECONOMIES Edited by R. Patterson. (Pp. 176; illustrated; \$14.50.) Chas. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1976.

REVOLUTION IN PSYCHIATRY By E. Becker. (Pp. 276; £1.50.) The Free Press/Macmillan: New York. 1976.

DISCUSSING DEATH By G. C. Mills, R. R. Reisler Jr, A. E. Robinson and G. Vermilye. (Pp. 140; \$5.50.) ETC Publications: Illinois. 1976.

BASIC CHILD PSYCHIATRY By Barker. (Pp. 274; illustrated; £6.00.) Crosby, Lockwood, Staples: London. 1976.

ERRATUM

On page 677, line 15 of Discussion, the words in italics have been omitted:

...in depressive illness. *However, studies in which tryptophan has been directly compared with placebo (Dunner & Goodwin, 1972; Murphy et al. 1974; Dunner & Fieve, 1975 and Mendels et al. 1975) have failed to demonstrate any antidepressant effect.*