

Book Reviews

schools and respectable methods of treatment have been included with the hope that this will facilitate future syntheses and a consistent view of psychiatry. Completeness and full documentation are also outstanding features, and the comprehensive indices are most welcome.

In this introductory volume there are six parts: history; basic notions; the life cycle and its common vicissitudes; schools of psychiatry; contributions from related fields, such as philosophy, religion, literature, history, and mathematics; classification and assessment of psychiatric disorders.

The section on history is written by three well-known historians of psychiatry, Henri F. Ellenberger, Nolan D. C. Lewis, George Mora, and together they give a survey from ancient to modern times. On the whole, however, the periods covered are too big and there is too much material that can be readily found elsewhere, as well as some that has little relevance to the history of psychiatry. Nevertheless this section can be recommended for perusal, and in the fifth, which contains essays on influences on psychiatry, there is a good deal of material that will interest the historian, although he will no doubt remain sceptical as far as "psycho-history" is concerned. The section on the schools of psychiatry is also valuable, and other parts too will be necessary reading for those working in the history of psychiatry. Altogether the work will be of great value and can be welcomed as a useful contribution to the history of psychiatry, an area in which the literature proliferates, not always gainfully.

STUART F. SPICKER and H. TRISTRAM ENGELHARDT, jr. (editors), *Philosophical dimensions of the neuro-medical sciences*, Dordrecht and Boston, D. Reidel, 1976, 8vo, pp. vi, 274, illus., \$29.00.

The Second Trans-Disciplinary Symposium on Philosophy and Medicine was held at Farmington, Conn., 15 to 17 May 1975, and this book carries the papers presented. The principal theme was 'Philosophical dimensions of the neuro-medical sciences' and the material is here divided into six sections: 'Historical foundations of modern neurology'; 'Philosophical implications of psychosurgery'; 'Neural integration and the emergence of consciousness'; 'The causal aspects of the psycho-physical problem: implications for neuro-medicine'; 'Altered affective responses to pain'; 'The function of philosophical concepts in the neuro-medical sciences'.

The meeting was dominated by philosophers and non-neurologists and there is necessarily a good deal of philosophizing and speculating, some of limited value. However, historians will be concerned mainly with the first section which consists of three papers: W. F. Bynum on Cartesian experience in early nineteenth-century neurophysiology; A. Benton on hemispheric cerebral dominance; Engelhardt on 'The geography of embodiment'. Unfortunately in the second of these there are a number of errors, but Bynum's is especially thoughtful, as are his comments later in the round-table discussions which constituted the sixth section.

As a means of bringing together individuals from a variety of disciplines to discuss topics of common interest, this meeting and the book it has produced have and will serve a useful purpose. The interchange of ideas and opinions must of necessity be advantageous, although the precise benefit to neurology would seem to be, at the moment, slight.