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Book reviews

Child Psychiatry. Modern Approaches. Edited by Michael Rutter and Lionel Hersov. (Pp. 1024; tables. £21.50.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1976.

I once wrote of paediatrics and child psychiatry: 'There has been a long and desultory flirtation between them. It is high time they were married—if only for the sake of the children.' In the field of growth and development they share a lot of common ground and have much to teach each other. Yet, as Leon Eisenberg once pointed out, while psychiatrists are frequently asked to advise paediatricians the converse is most unusual. Similarly, psychiatrists in search of the organic have to resort to books written by paediatricians for paediatricians; whereas psychiatrists often write for paediatricians.

This is a large book by psychiatrists written primarily for their peers but intended for all those professionally concerned with children who suffer from psychiatric disorders. The two editors could hardly be better matched or more complementary, the one with an outstanding academic bent and talent for research and the other a teacher and clinician of distinction. Each has written several chapters and together they have edited with discrimination a wide range of others, representing 'the Maudsley' through its alumni at home and abroad.

The book is in 5 sections. In the first, 8 chapters describe selected influences on development. Some individual differences are already apparent in early infancy; among others discussed are those due to the family, to adoption, to brain injury, to the sociocultural milieu. The second section of 3 chapters details theories of development, including learning theories, Piaget and its alternatives, as well as psychoanalytic theories. By far the largest section is devoted eclectically to what are loosely labelled as clinical syndromes. It contains much with a paediatric flavour, including school refusal, psychosomatic relationships, hyperkinetic syndromes, enuresis, drugs. The separation of mental retardation into separate chapters on medical and psychiatric aspects, however, seems to me retrograde. A fifth and final section, with 6 chapters on approaches to treatment, will be of less practical interest to paediatricians.

The book, not unnaturally, assumes that its readers will be quite knowledgeable, in many instances too much so for non-psychiatrists. The 13 principles of behaviour modification are an example of meticulous and punctilious detail which will hardly appeal except to professional psychiatrists. But a highly admirable feature is common to all chapters: they give their summaries and conclusions in lucid and succinct language that will be understood by any interested doctor. This is not a book for paediatricians to buy, even if they could afford 2p a page for its 1000 pages. It is one from which any but the most physically orientated of us would benefit by borrowing from the library to dip into, and to read about some psychiatric subject that particularly interests, baffles, or irritates us.

JOHN APLEY

New Chromosomal Syndromes. Ed. by Jorge Y. Yunis. (Pp. 404; illustrated + tables. £20.60. US $29.00.) Academic Press: London, New York, and San Francisco. 1977.

The study of the correlation between chromosomes and morphological phenotype is a time-honoured procedure which dates back to the early days of *Drosophila* genetics at Columbia University and is now beginning to pay dividends both practical and theoretical in human affairs. So it is becoming possible to correlate certain rather specific pathological features with specific chromosomes or even their segments. Thus laryngomalacia relates to the short arm of chromosome 5, retinoblastoma, polydactyly, or agenesis of the thumb rays to chromosome 8, and thymic aplasia to the long arm of chromosome 1. Interestingly, several deletion syndromes bear similarity to autosomal dominantly inherited conditions attributed to single mutant genes, and other generalizations can be made. For example, though deletions are in general more detrimental than duplications, which thus are more often found in man, some are nevertheless compatible with good survival.

This informative and timely multi-author book deals with these aspects and expands review articles on syndromes whose chromosomal delineation has become possible with the introduction of the chromosome banding techniques some 6 to 7 years ago. Newer chromosome anomalies have mostly been detected among infants, children, and occasionally among adults affected by relatively non-specific multiple developmental deviations, though by no means all subjects found to carry a chromosome imbalance are seriously affected. The forms of chromosome imbalance which cause abnormal development are generally segmental anomalies of the chromosomes such as additions of chromosomal material (duplications, here often called partial trisomies) or their subtraction (deletions or deficiencies, also referred to as partial monosomies). Also the previously well established chromosomal syndromes (discussed in 59 pages) have yielded new information with the use of the newer methods. Although some 50 chromosomal syndromes are now claimed, 40 or more 'new' ones generally have been established on the strength of only a few cases each so that clinical variability is quite marked. To the paucity of cases, which highlights natural variability, one must add variation of the chromosomal errors (sometimes not immediately obvious when it *seems* one is dealing with the same structural change), subjectiveness of the clinical observations, and the varied backgrounds of those who made them.

The book starts with a helpful introduction which briefly describes the new chromosome techniques and summarizes the shorthand notation for recording chromosome errors (Paris, 1971). This is generally, but not universally, followed by the various contributors to the books. Chapters follow on individual chromo-