

lacking. This was recognized by the doctors as well as the administrators; it was not the principles at which the doctors protested but the way in which the Bill was introduced without any previous consultations having been taken with them. When the Act was passed their quarrel was about the level of remuneration rather than the substance of the Act.

Dr Brand starts her thesis with the Medical Act of 1858. Of necessity much of the book deals with the development of the environmental health services, for these had a conditioning effect on the government, the people and the doctors. With the turn of the century the state was interesting itself more and more in the personal health services, health visiting and child welfare and school inspections were all well established. The disclosures of the recruiting offices during the South African war and the findings of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law had made it abundantly evident that something should be done. The description of events during the passage of the N.H.I. Act through parliament is extremely well done.

An introduction to psychopathology. Second edition. D. RUSSELL DAVIS, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. London. Oxford University Press. 1966. Pp. x + 158. Price 16s.

This book was first published in 1957 and was written "to bridge the gap between the psychiatric clinic and the psychological laboratory"; it was to be a service to psychiatrists and psychologists. The new edition, entirely re-written claims to be not only for the medical student and the general practitioner, but for all those who are professionally concerned with problems of mental disorder in children or adults. Your reviewer found it difficult to read because of the special approach, which seemed to be disjointed and perplexing. Professor Russell Davis is right when he says it is more profitable to talk about problems rather than about 'schools' of psychiatry. A great deal of time is still taken up with the search for 'perfectionist' definitions. Psychology in its early days was involved with philosophical speculations. Later developments emphasized the experimental method so as to be able to measure objectively what was observed like the other exact sciences. But when abnormal behaviour, sexual conduct in its widest sense—a suckling at the breast, and affective behaviour were approached in 'a scientific manner' the results did not make sense.

We are still bogged down in our thinking when we speak of 'mental illness' using an analogy of 'physical illness', i.e. seeking an organic basis for disorderly irrational behaviour.

There are large numbers of unresolved problems of diagnosis and treatment related to clinical neurosis and their origins in childhood experience. Professor Russell Davis' 'Ten rules for therapists' are good, provided that the therapist has had some reliable experience and training. This book is not suitable for the medical student or for an inexperienced general practitioner, but it will be of value to the advanced student in psychology or the young doctor working in the mental hospital service.