CNV and on evoked potentials in schizophrenics on and off various standard medications.

In summary, about a third of the book comprises material more or less directly relevant to readers of *Psychological Medicine*. The remainder does, however, represent papers of potential usefulness and technical sophistication which all evoked potential workers should know about.

P. H. VENABLES

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Brain and Mind. Ciba Foundation Symposium (new series) 69. Edited by G. Wolstenhome and M. O'Connor. (Pp. 424; illustrated; $51.25.) Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1979.

Beast and Man. By M. Midgley. (Pp. 376; price not stated.) Harvester Press: Brighton. 1978.

The mind–brain problem, for so long a plaything for philosophical speculation, has been given a new and fashionable lease of life by contemporary neurobiological research. An appropriate subject, therefore, for Sir Gordon Wolstenhome's farewell Ciba Symposium in 1978. The neuroscientists duly went through their customary hoops, labelled consciousness, language, perception, emotion, pain, behaviour, communication and ethics. The philosophers exhibited their special skill, defined by one of their number in an unusually frank aside, as the ability 'to exploit as opportunistically as they can the work of first rate people in other fields'. With a group of participants which included such authoritative figures as Peter Medawar, J. Z. Young, John Searle, José Delgado, Colin Blakemore, Detlev Ploog and D. M. Armstrong, the standard of the papers and the discussions was understandably high. As with so many proceedings of this type, nonetheless, the reader is hard put to integrate the heterogeneous material and is likely to emerge in a state of stimulated dissatisfaction. The following exchange illustrates the difficulty:

P. 'My guess is that we will find that as an inherited disease schizophrenia bears no more specific relationship to the environment than does diabetes or perhaps acute intermittent porphyria.'

T. 'What does that sentence mean? Why should an inherited disease have absolutely nothing to do with the present circumstances?'

P. 'One cannot identify anywhere, within any environment which has been examined up to the present time, consistent root causes even for the precipitation of the schizophrenic state.'

T. 'That surprises me.'

P. 'There is no consistency.'

B. 'It is environment invariant.'

A. 'If it is environment invariant, and if it is also a disease of introspection, that suggests that T. is wrong when he thinks that introspection is very closely tied in with socialization.'

Y. 'By invariant don't you merely mean "manifest in many environments"? You don't mean that the environment is unimportant but that no specific environment is associated with the disease?'

P. 'What I meant to say was that one is unable to identify consistent or predictable factors in the environment associated with the precipitation of the disease.'

The philosopher Mary Midgley, by contrast, tackles an equally complex topic, nothing less than the roots of human nature, single-handed. Part of her thesis is to rebut some of the simplistic assumptions of the sociobiologists, as she makes explicit in a section entitled 'Why Neurology Cannot Replace Moral Philosophy'. Her essay, developed with lucidity and some passion, takes in psychology, culture, instinct, motivation, values, evolution, speech and research to develop a case for a moderated humanism. The argument may be challenged in many places but it has the great merit of consistency.

Towards Understanding Relationships. By R. A. Hinde. (Pp. 367; illustrated; £15.80 hb, £7.80 pb.) Academic Press: London. 1979.

The term 'human relationship' has become a verbal casualty in an era of popular psychodynamics, conjuring up the likes of Mr Woody Allen and the agony column of the *New York Review of Books.* All the more credit, then, to Professor Robert Hinde for re-emphasizing the importance of the subject and exploring its scientific status. Readers of this journal will have had a foretaste of his approach (*Psychological Medicine*, 1978, **8**, 373) which is much expanded in this contribution to the European Monographs in Social Psychology series. As an ethologist the author might be expected to be familiar with the biological studies related to his theme, but here he has also assembled and reviewed the evidence from a large and varied literature: a bibliography of some 650 references draws on work from sociology, psychology, anthropology, child development and psychiatry, all of it focused on dyadic relationships. The text proceeds via definition, description and classification to the study of interpersonal dynamics and developmental aspects in infancy, childhood and adulthood. A final chapter underlines the limitations rather than the achievements of an

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enterprise which succeeds in delineating some of the problems and pointing towards what needs to be done. With so complex a subject this constitutes an impressive achievement in itself.

Human Ethology. Edited by M. von Cranach, K. Foppa, W. Lepenies and D. Ploog. (Pp. 764; illustrated; £35.00 hb, £12.50 pb.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. 1980.

Having designated the content of their discipline as the biology of behaviour, ethologists are coming to grips with its claims and limitations. These contributions to an international colloquium held in 1977 may serve to give the general reader some idea of their thinking. The contents of the volume are presented in three broad sections whose titles – phylogenetic and cultural ritualization, organization of social behaviour, and ontogeny of primate behaviour – embrace a wide range of topics, including the function of rituals, aggression, group relationships, cognitive and language development, property and territoriality, and the consequences of early experience. The papers are followed by invited comments and the authors' replies to the discussants. The mixed group of distinguished contributors representing the biological and social sciences, philosophy, child development and psychiatry were able to discuss the multiple implications of their several themes, and if they were able to come up with very few conclusions they have succeeded in exploring the conceptual and methodological problems in some depth.

Handbook of the Psychology of Aging. Edited by J. E. Birren and K. W. Schaie. (Pp. 787; illustrated; £27.15 hb, £14.20 pb.) Van Nostrand Reinhold: Wokingham, Berks. 1977.

Brain Function in Old Age. Edited by F. Hoffmeister and C. Müller. (Pp. 533; illustrated; $48.40.) Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1979.

This *Handbook of the Psychology of Aging* is one of a trio of handbooks, the other two being devoted to the biological and social aspects of the ageing process. The editors nonetheless include a great deal of biology and social science in the behavioural aspects of the subject. An authoritative group of contributors maintain a high standard over thirty fact-filled chapters and go some way towards the editorial objective of 'a definitive reference work'. The Bayer-symposium, edited by Hoffmeister and Müller, also contains a substantial section on psychological studies. However, since the focus here was on method and the evaluation of changes and disorders in the senium, papers by physiologists, pharmacologists and clinicians are given more prominence. Between them the two volumes indicate clearly the growing concern by highly competent scientific workers in several disciplines with the problems posed by old age.

Sensory Systems and Communication in the Elderly. Edited by J. Mark Ordy and Ken R. Brizzee. (Pp. 322; illustrated; price not stated.) Raven Press: New York. 1979.

The View in Winter. By Ronald Blythe. (Pp. 319; £6.95.) Allen Lane: London. 1979.

The latest volume in the Aging Series is packed with material which should be of interest to psychogeriatricians, concerned as they are with the mechanisms of senile decline. It brings together a mass of experimental and clinical observations on individual sensory-modalities and, in discussing their inter-relationships via such functions as information-processing and sensory–motor integration, underlines their importance for memory, learning, perception and communication. *The View in Winter* tells another story. It is essentially an extended essay on the seventh age of man, drawing on a wide range of literary and philosophical sources and illustrated by a number of pointed and often moving interviews with elderly people. Readers who are familiar with Mr Blythe's *Akenfield* will recognize the style and the skill which have gone into this meditation on old age viewed, in V. S. Pritchett's memorable phrase, as 'a kind of internal migration our forebears never had to deal with'. A book, therefore, for all readers, including psychogeriatricians.

Changing Youth in a Changing Society. By M. Rutter. (Pp. 323; illustrated; £7.50.) Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust: London. 1979.

The value of Professor Rutter's useful contributions to child psychiatry over the past 15 years has been twofold. In the first place, his own research has been refreshingly empirical in a field which has long been dominated by overblown theory and speculation. Secondly, his fact-crunching capacity has been applied to several non-biological disciplines relevant to his own – child development, education, and other social sciences. On both counts he was well qualified for the 1979 Rock Carling Fellowship to review contemporary patterns of adolescent development and disorder in the United Kingdom and the United States. This large topic is covered in five chapters, dealing respectively with the nature of adolescence, historical trends, direct influences on adolescent behaviour, social and family changes and the provision of services. Though the monograph reads like a government-report in places, it does summarize a great deal of information; it dispels some hoary myths surrounding adolescence, e.g. parent–child alienation and psychoanalytical con-

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