

times as a "barbiturate psychotic" behind the iron doors of the locked ward of an American mental hospital, leaving on each occasion before treatment had been completed. He returned again in December of the same year, and was finally discharged in May of 1952. Shortly afterwards he secured a post as Resident Psychiatrist in a State Mental Hospital. He became a fervent admirer of Walter Freeman, and within two years had, in conjunction with his associates, carried out 400 trans-orbital lobotomies, the last 162 without a single death. At this stage the head doctor told Dr. Ferguson that they were doing too many leucotomies, and insisted on more careful selection. Shortly afterwards Jack Ferguson resigned and obtained a post at the Traverse City State Hospital, where he turned his attention to serpasil, chlorpromazine, ritalin, and other drugs. Within one year 144 patients who had been in the hospital for an average period of five years had been discharged and were behaving normally at home or in family care.

This stimulating and provocative book makes one wonder what had been happening to the patients before Dr. Jack Ferguson arrived on the scene, and also why the drugs used so successfully by him in an American State Hospital are not nearly as effective when used over here. Perhaps those who have visited mental hospitals in both countries will know the answer.

T. P. REES.

Masochism in Modern Man. By Theodor Reik. Grove Press Inc. G.B. Distributors : John Calder (Publishers) Ltd. \$1.95.

Judging by what some of our patients do to torture themselves, not only in their sexual but also in their social lives, it is difficult at times to see why a man has ever come to be regarded as an animal that seeks pleasure and avoids pain. In this book Dr. Reik stresses the social type of masochism which tends to dominate not only the life of individuals but also social groups. His studies of the perverseness of the individual and of the behaviour of national groups forces him to the conclusion that, far from being a creature that seeks pleasure and avoids pain, man is indubitably a masochistic animal. Written by a well-known American psycho-analyst, this is a book worthy of a place on every psychiatrist's bookshelf.

T. P. REES.

"Teach Them to Live." By Frances Banks. Max Parrish. 30s.

This is a lively and comprehensive survey of the development of education in the prison system and Miss Banks brings to her study wide vision and much human understanding. After five years in the pioneer post of tutor organiser at Maidstone Prison, she has travelled, seen and studied the work of a large number of our

corrective institutions and her book will stimulate and inspire all who have an interest in this testing field of social service. It is a great tribute to the work and faith of countless men and women, who, in their varied ways, have laboured to bring of their own real treasure to the less fortunate!

Miss Banks' prime interest is, of course, education. Of the prison variety she comments: "It stuck itself like a barnacle on to the old penal hulk, no one put it there and no one scraped it off!" But now the day of good works must give way to a more scientific approach and, as one who understands the true purpose of education, she rightly demands a larger place for education in the future time-table of the prisoner.

Those who work in the field of mental health will be interested in the discussion of group methods already in use amongst prisoners and will no doubt react in differing ways to the suggestion that prison staff should be trained to take therapeutic groups of various kinds. Authoritarian bias is not quite so readily modified as Miss Banks suggests! Nonetheless, we are moving into the era of "groups" and any method that develops better verbal communication cannot but be of significance for those whose chief communications have hitherto taken the form of antisocial action.

To ordinary members of the public this book will be something of a revelation of the thought and care that, in spite of the archaic conditions of prison life, go into the retraining of society's failures. If the results are not startling, bearing in mind recent pronouncements on the success of prison training, the reader will at least have a truer picture of the magnitude of the problem that faces the prison authorities.

There is a useful index and bibliography.

J. M. DIGHTON.

Like a Lamb. By Ella Hales. Christopher Johnson. 15s.

The publishers of this autobiography have wisely left Ella Hales' uneducated style untouched. They might easily have ironed out the style and the poignancy together. But they should have cut and arranged the material which is muddling, repetitive and ambiguous.

The story is liberally sprinkled with villains. Miss Hales was a nurse who suffered a great deal of pain after a bad fall. These pains were diagnosed as delusions and she was certified as insane. The evidence is woolly and the lay reader is left boggling. If an orthopaedic specialist had diagnosed a fractured spine and advised an operation would her doctor have taken no notice? On the other hand, if her condition was so bad could everyone else have missed it?