

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

TREATMENT OF HEART DISEASE

Konservative und chirurgische Behandlung angeborener und erworbener Herzfehler. 3 Vorträge. Von Prof. Dr. E. Derra, Prof. Dr. O. Bayer und Dr. H. H. Wolter. iv + 64 Seiten. 25 Abbildungen. DM 6.40. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

In this book cardiac treatment is discussed under 3 different headings, viz. (1) cardiac surgery in general, including (a) cardiopathy without shunt, (b) angiocardopathy with L-R shunt, and (c) cyanotic conditions; (2) conservative treatment; and (3) indications for surgery. All the observations and suggestions are based on experience compiled from 2,000 heart operations performed in the author's clinic.

It is redundant to discuss the author's classification of operable and inoperable cardiac abnormalities. The reviewer feels quite sure that operations on conditions which are labelled inoperable today will be common practice in a few years' time.

The text is very well discussed and arranged, and is accompanied by highly illustrative photographs which make for easy understanding.

The cardiac surgery described in this book is performed under cardiac bypass in combination with hypothermia—a procedure which is not practised in this country, nor in the big American heart units.

D.J.H.

SCHIZOPHRENIC SYMPTOMS AS A COMMUNICATIVE DEVICE

The Symptom as Communication in Schizophrenia. Editor: Kenneth L. Artiss, M.C. Pp. vi + 233. \$5.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

This is a study of 16 schizophrenic patients chosen on the basis of their having been capable of a minimal (time) adaptation to military service. The disciplines of psychiatry, social work, sociology and anthropology have been brought together in a comprehensive study of these individuals and their group-adjustment at most stages of their lives. They have been treated by individual and group psychotherapy in a total-milieu therapeutic approach in a special ward of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington.

The authors present a series of hypotheses derived from the data which appear to them to present a coherent frame of reference within the framework of the main hypothesis that the schizophrenic symptom may be used as an informative and communicative device in transactions between the patient and others.

In the absence of any controls in this study, the hypotheses cannot be scientifically evaluated and in spite of their thoroughness the observations therefore add little to the academic knowledge of the subject so far as any of these disciplines are concerned.

W.J.B.