

Second World War, the post-war pattern, and what is called "The Four-Fold Partnership"—of the central government, the local education authorities, the universities and voluntary organizations. It is a work of considerable scholarship and readers not familiar with adult education may be surprised by the wealth of literature on which the author has drawn.

The story is complicated, and many institutions and movements are described which have long since disappeared. Of those active today the universities have been longest in the field. The starting point was in 1867 when James Stuart, who subsequently became the first Professor of Mechanism and Applied Mechanics at Cambridge, began giving courses of lectures, chiefly on astronomy, to audiences in the north of England. From them developed a national system of university extension, which has continued to the present day and has shown itself to be notably adaptable to changing social and educational needs. The most recent development mentioned by Professor Kelly is the appearance of the technological universities as providers of adult education courses. Unlike the traditional universities, Bath, Strathclyde and Loughborough have established programmes of work without the assistance of special grants from the central government. That they are specially interested in applied science is significant.

While the record of the universities and the Workers' Educational Association is of continued growth, that of the local education authorities, providing for a much larger number of people, is less satisfactory. The statistics given by the author show that their adult education activities are particularly vulnerable to public economies: expansion seems inevitably to be followed by contraction. This is because their chief purpose is the education of the young, and adult education becomes the first activity to suffer when cuts have to be made.

Readers of *Nature* will be interested in the information provided about science in adult education. It started with classes in mathematics and astronomy in connexion with the study of navigation in the 16th century, produced itinerant lecturers in the 18th century, inspired the establishment of mechanics institutes in the early 19th century, and affected the foundation of university extension through James Stuart. The record was not so satisfactory in the period before the Second World War, but the number of courses in science provided by universities increased from 6 per cent of all courses in 1947-48 to 14 per cent in 1966-67. Professor Kelly points out, however, that Bristol has a much better record than any other university and indicates that this is a result of policy rather than of accident.

Science seems to be needed, however, in another respect. Many of the movements the author describes have been the result of hope and belief, rather than a careful assessment of needs, resources, and possibilities. The general expansion of education, the start of the Open University and the report of the committee now sitting under the chairmanship of Sir Lionel Russell should enable planning in the future to be more systematic than in the past.

W. E. STYLER

## LANGUAGE-LACK LORE

### Aphasiology and other Aspects of Language

By Macdonald Critchley. Pp. ix + 405 + 12 plates. (Arnold: London, March 1970.) 180s.

APHASIOLOGY is a portentous—and etymologically somewhat bizarre—word, softened on the dust cover of this book by juxtaposition with a charming picture of a pair of gannets communicating, whose previous intercourse has evidently been rewarding to judge by the chick at their feet. Within are to be found assembled all Dr Critchley's

contributions on topics relating to speech and its disorders, with excursions ranging far into surrounding byways, and amusing historical touches. Comprising some quarter of a million words, this is a treasure house for anybody not wholly enslaved by a purely clinical or a coldly scientific approach to its nominally central theme.

As in all books of this kind, with varied contents written over a considerable period of time, and some inevitable repetitions, it is difficult to discern clear lines of systematic thought and committed formulation. The author does much to provide a stimulating, and corrective, context for others to think in. Topics such as the relation of animal to human communication, iterations and verbal tics, regional and demotic speech, gestural and mimic language, the details of disordered written language, the speech of psychotics and the varied significances and euphemisms for the words "Yes" and "No" should surely all form part, if peripherally, of the framework within which the neurologist, the linguist and the psychologist must try to tease out of the rich picture of clinical phenomena definite issues on which to base hypotheses suited to decisive test. Perhaps the most valuable and suggestive theme is the author's insistence on the importance of far more careful study of what he calls "minimal" aphasia. The phenomena associated with major disorders of speech are often so dramatic and compelling that theoretical views have been framed largely in terms of them, to the exclusion of what may be learnt, and perhaps more fruitfully thought about, from minor abnormalities to be found in the residual symptoms of long standing cases, in lesions exclusively of the non-dominant hemisphere and in disorders of uncertain aetiology such as "specific dyslexia" and "dysgraphia".

This is a very long book, more suited perhaps to leisure-time browsing than intensive study; sadly its price will put it out of range of many who would like it on their own shelves. Is it perhaps ironic that one who has devoted so much effort and so many words to the study and alleviation of speechlessness should now declare: "Words which should be servants now become masters. A veritable tyranny of words develops. A *pot-pourri* of clichés may eventually usurp the place of intellectualism, beliefs and judgments. Such is one of the insidious weaknesses of the structure of modern life, threatening to be an even greater menace in the future"? Can any neuropharmacist oblige with a contralexie pill?

R. C. OLDFIELD

## PATHOLOGY, PAST AND PRESENT

### Trends in Clinical Pathology

Essays in Honour of Gordon Signy. Pp. xi + 352 + 4 plates. (British Medical Association: London, February 1970. Published for the Association of Clinical Pathologists.) 60s; \$7.50.

THIS volume is a collection of essays written by distinguished British pathologists to honour Gordon Signy on his twenty-fifth anniversary as editor of the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, the official journal of the Association of Clinical Pathologists.

Twenty-five years ago clinical pathologists were expected to be masters of most if not all hospital laboratory investigations. But new advances in medical knowledge and the increased complexity of diagnostic methods (plus the ever expanding demand for them in the National Health Service) had produced a new breed of scientific pathologist. This is readily appreciated by reference to the scope of the papers that filled Signy's journal over the years, or by reading the essays collected here in his honour.