

description. The book is in three parts which deal with (a) the bamboo plant in seedling, mature and reproductive stages, (b) propagation by seed and vegetatively, and (c) classification and taxonomy. The book is well produced and reasonably free from typographical errors. The ninety-nine figures include many excellent photographs, superb line drawings and graphs, all of commendable clarity. The photographs are well captioned and sufficiently explanatory to tell the story of the bamboos almost without reference to the text.

The bamboos are members of the grass family but have many distinctive characters sufficient to place them in a major subfamily (Bambusoideae). For example, many are woody and tree-like, they have a prominent rhizome system, the leaf blades are subtended by petioles and the differences in form between the sheaths enveloping the young culms and those borne on the leafy twigs are important in classification. There are also characteristic floral differences between bamboos and other Gramineae, some of which are rather diffuse and very variable within the Bambusoideae. These taxonomic characters show the group to be primitive and to possess a morphology not seen in the herbaceous grasses.

No student of the Gramineae is fully conversant with the family unless he has some knowledge of bamboos. This book provides that knowledge. If one is to be critical of this valuable treatise, it is to express regret at the paucity of agronomic information. What, for example are the basic nutrient needs of different genera and species of bamboo and what are their management demands when grown as plantation crops? McClure does himself less than justice when he deals with the economic potentials of presently cropped "wild" grasses and with the added potential which could be developed if these were to be replaced by plantations. Clearly, these crop aspects have enormous potential in connexion with a number of industrial products, such as paper, houses and animal fodder. Bamboos have been used in China and elsewhere for all kinds of human purposes including weaving, house building, and gourmandizing (bamboo shoots).

The author touches on enough of the agronomic features and economic virtues of the bamboos to show clearly the vast fund of experience which has accumulated over a lifelong study of this subfamily. It would therefore be a pity if we could not look to the publication of a companion volume dealing more fully with these features; perhaps a second edition could be made to fulfil this purpose. The book can be commended to geographers, taxonomists, physiologists and horticulturists. It should also be stimulating to the paper industry and building contractors everywhere. The full and proper exploration of the bamboo might well reduce costs and make for lighter construction of houses. The publishers are to be congratulated on the excellence of presentation of a useful work.

WILLIAM DAVIES

FREUD AND OTHERS

Depth Psychology, A Critical History

By Dieter Wyss. Development, Problems, Crises. Translated by Gerald Onn. Pp. 568. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1966.) 52s. net.

A WORK of this kind is a formidable task. Freud himself was a prolific writer who revised many of his views in the light of experience, and the understanding of adult human personality by reference to experiences long past and forgotten has had a strong fascination for a large number of speculative writers whose primary interest may derive from therapy, education, criminology, anthropology or, indeed, any one of the social sciences.

The plan of the book is straightforward and the treatment is clear. There is a very full account of the progress of Freud's thought, including references to those who

influenced or in some sense foreshadowed his later developments. Brücke, Herbart, Brentano, Meynert, Fechner and, of course, Charcot and Breuer all appear, and there is frequent reference to the "Project for a Scientific Psychology" which Freud outlined in the remarkable correspondence with Wilhelm Fliess.

The story then moves on to the assessment of the systems of Abraham, Ferenczi, Fenichel and of prominent members of the British group such as Edward Glover, Ernest Jones, Anna Freud and Melanie Klein. In the same orderly way, the appraisal embraces the contributions of well known authors such as Alfred Adler, Horney, Fromm, Reik, Sullivan, C. G. Jung, Reich, Kardiner and Rank; but a welcome feature is the review of the work of the New York Group including H. Hartman, E. Kris, R. Lowenstein, René Spitz, Phyllis Greenacre and Erik H. Erikson, and of a number of other authors such as Paul Federn, Thomas French, Sandor Rado and Ernest G. Schachtel, who are not so widely known in Britain outside specialized psycho-analytic circles. Especially valuable, and the more so because the philosophical roots are discussed, are the accounts of the development of existential analysis and the associated movements on the continent of Europe which emerge from the appraisal of the systems of Ludwig Binswanger, Trüb, Viktor von Weizsäcker, Henri Ey and others.

A vast panorama of thought is thus available to the reader and the author's task is not made easier by the fact that an authoritative biography of Freud by Ernest Jones and readable works of appraisal in this general field have been already provided by Ruth Munroe, Clara Thompson and Patrick Mullahy. The distinction of the present work lies in its extensive coverage and the consistent attempt to show how the various systems of thought derive from their several sources. The last of the three main parts of the book is devoted to an examination of the scientific standing of the system of depth psychology. This is interesting, but tends to lose something in intensity for the reader because of a somewhat laboured treatment of the essential features of defensible scientific systems and the reappearance of some of the issues mentioned earlier in the book. There are also surprisingly few references to empirical studies designed to test Freudian hypotheses. Without the original German text for comparison, it is impossible to assess the accuracy of Gerald Onn's translation, but it should be recorded that the English version reads very well.

F. V. SMITH

ALKALOIDS DOCUMENTED

Spectral Data and Physical Constants of Alkaloids

Edited by J. Holubek and O. Strouf. Pp. 29+Data Cards 1-300 (in 2 volumes). (Prague: Publishing House of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences; London: Heyden and Son, Ltd., 1965.) 460s.; \$69.

A COMPREHENSIVE documentation of the physical constants and of all the various kinds of spectra of the alkaloids would undoubtedly be of immense value not only to alkaloid chemists but to all those interested in heterocyclic chemistry. Indeed, the great variety of ring systems and chromophores encountered in alkaloid molecules would give to such a subject universal appeal. A complete documentation of this kind is obviously at present no more than an idle dream, but on a much more practical level, a Czech group, headed by J. Holubek and O. Strouf, have embarked on the documentation of the physical constants, and of the ultra-violet and infra-red spectra, of the alkaloids. It is a pleasure to welcome the first two volumes in this series, which together contain the data for 300 alkaloids. A supplementary issue of 100 data sheets is promised (at a cost of 140s.) and subsequent issues of 100 data cards are also planned.