

successfully treated Jacques Cartier's men for the disease on the St Lawrence River as early as 1535. Even the shamanistic practices are clearly worth considering, as Vogel has done, for more than their ritualistic relevance. As Professor Ackerknecht pointed out some years ago, these apparently useless rites may in actual fact have been of considerable psychotherapeutic value, and should not be underrated in this respect.

In terms of overall content, the first third of the book considers Indian theories of disease and shamanistic practices, a regional survey of the early observations on Indian medicine made by European settlers, and of the influence of such medicine in the early colonies. Following this is a short but useful account of the historical evidence for Amerindian health during the earlier period of European contact. The chapter on Indian therapeutic methods is long and detailed, and together with the accompanying appendix on American contributions to pharmacology, this latter part of the book will remain an important reference source for many years. The bibliography of forty-four pages is thorough and up to date.

DON BROTHWELL

IN SEARCH OF A ROLE

Training Tomorrow's Psychiatrist

The Crisis in Curriculum. Edited by Theodore Lidz and Marshall Edelson. Pp. xiv + 94. (Yale University: New Haven and London, June 1970.) 18s paper; 60s boards.

DURING the ten years since the Mental Health Act (1959) became law, there has been a constant pressure for change in the practice of psychiatry, not only in Britain but throughout the western world. The pressure comes partly from within the profession itself: in many European countries, psychiatry has been dominated, to its detriment, by the vested interests of neurologists. In turn, Holland, France and West Germany have taken steps to separate these two related and yet profoundly different disciplines. In Britain, the Royal Medico-Psychological Association has been in labour for the past six years trying to give birth to a Royal College of Psychiatrists. In America, the 1963 "Community Mental Health Centers Act" has opened up new professional careers, challenging the dominance of private-practice individual psychotherapy.

To an even greater extent, however, the pressure for change has come from the public, in the form of increased readiness to seek psychiatric help, and raised expectations of the help which should be available to relieve emotional distress. Public demands and political initiatives have accelerated changes in the patterns of mental health care on both sides of the Atlantic. In Britain, the recommendations of the Todd Commission, which advocated that more attention be given to the behavioural sciences, to psychiatry and to community medicine in the future training of doctors, have nowhere yet been implemented; but significantly, the Seebohm Report on the Personal Social Services, published shortly after Todd, has already transformed and greatly extended the role of the social work profession. (In a little-regarded paragraph, the Seebohm Committee drew attention to the apparent confusion among psychiatrists as to their proper role in dealing with the enormous problem of minor mental ill-health among children and adults.) In the United States, the very multiplicity of experiments in trying out new methods of providing mental health care has added to the confusion: psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and non-professional community leaders have all severally claimed the right to direct and control community mental health programmes.

It was against this background of tumult and confusion that a group of psychiatrists met recently at Yale to discuss the future training of psychiatrists. Four of their papers are presented in this booklet, together with

a foreword by Dr Theodore Lidz. The two opening papers stress the need for psychiatrists to have medical training, but suggest that the biological side of that training can be attenuated in favour of early specialization in psychiatry proper. The third paper outlines an ambitious and clearly intellectually demanding undergraduate elective course in behavioural science for future psychiatrists, while the fourth examines the conflicting views about what constitutes "community psychiatry", and presents some guarded opinions about how psychiatrists should be trained for this still ill-defined field of action.

Dr Lidz's preface ends with the following sentences: "The papers included in this volume do not provide solutions nor do they cover all of the significant problems confronting psychiatric educators. They consider some of the significant issues and raise many questions. In a sense, the meeting at which they were given explored the need for new directions in educating psychiatrists, and indicated the need for a conference at which the issues could be examined more fully and definitively". These sentiments, echoing the aside in the Seebohm Report, are no less true of British than of American psychiatry today.

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SLAVE SYNTHESIS

The Atlantic Slave Trade

A Census. By Philip D. Curtin. Pp. xix + 338. (University of Wisconsin: Madison and London, May 1970.) 71s; \$7.50.

IN the preface to this book, the author stresses that it is neither a textbook nor a definitive monograph. In common with most other academics Africanists have contributed, during the past quarter of a century, an increasing number of works at both ends of the publishing spectrum. Young scholars have been more or less forced to undertake their first major investigation in the field and on relatively narrow topics and, in consequence, the library thesis (or synthesis) has become less and less acceptable. Experienced scholars have been tempted by publishers to write the broad works of synthesis for which there would seem to be an ever increasing demand. Conversely, book-length syntheses of fairly large topics at an intermediate level have been relatively rare. The Atlantic slave trade was just such a topic and no real attempt had been made to review the considerable secondary literature on it, most of which had been published since 1945. In attempting to do so, Professor Curtin conceived his task as "building with the bricks that exist, not in making new ones". Where there is a consensus among authorities he has let it stand; where no consensus exists, he has looked further but stopped short of original research.

As the subtitle indicates, this book is a census. Its aim is to appraise and collate information on the African origins and New World destinations of the slaves, the numbers involved in the transatlantic trade and the fluctuations therein through almost four centuries. It reflects a recent trend towards quantification in historical scholarship. There are several semi-logarithmic graphs, eighty-three tables and an acknowledgement in the preface to the assistance of the University of Wisconsin's Computing Center. While the author stresses that the estimates may be in error by as much as twenty per cent, he nevertheless demonstrates their value in measuring the relative importance of different geographical branches of the trade at different times. For example, less than a twentieth of all the slaves were imported into British North America, whereas more than a third went to Brazil. Contrasts were almost as marked through time, so that possible large errors do not seriously mask the trends.

The book is well presented, contains numerous simple but effective maps, and is well indexed. It can be read or