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those who prefer to practise medicine *in vivo* rather than *in vitro* who would seriously disagree. But although some of us may not have properly learned the lesson, one can, unlike Paracelsus, dwell unduly on the past. Avicenna has probably taught us all he knew that was worth knowing.

W. H. TRETOWAN.

#### REFERENCES

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**Selektion in der Heilanstalt 1939-1945 (Selection in the Mental Hospital 1939-1945)**. By GERHARD SCHMIDT, with a foreword by KARL JASPERS. Stuttgart: Evangelisches Verlagswerk. 1965. Pp. 152. Price £1 8s. 6d.

The author, now Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry in Lübeck, Germany, describes here what he found in a German mental hospital near Munich when he was appointed there as Director in 1945.

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The author shows conclusively that these measures were not the outcome of war conditions, imposed as it were by the stringencies of wartime, but that they were the result of race ideologies as cultivated by the National Socialists though conceived by German

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women hymn writers hit their peak at 36–38, while breakers of world billiards records have it made by 31–36. McClelland ("Achievement, Drive and Economic Growth") reveals that Italian managers have a lower need for achievement than American or Polish managers. Hall ("What People Dream About") establishes that 31 per cent. of women, but only 24 per cent. of men, report coloured dreams; and Berkowitz ("Murder as Aggressive Behaviour") reminds us that in times of business depression white men murder more often and Negroes not so frequently. What do you know?

In spite of its *Reader's Digest* optimism, the book has a curiously depressing effect in mass. All this assembling of psychological plums seems to underline the stunted state of the discipline. It reveals how often psychologists have contented themselves with jargonizing lay concepts and then frenetically counting, categorizing and correlating in the name of science. The mass of these studies are not simply theoretically impoverished, they are little more than bits of proverbial wisdom illustrated by experiment, anecdotes—multiplied and systematic—but still anecdotes. If physicists had rested content with a similar organizing of common sense, modern physics would still be mumbling about earth, air, fire and water.

Still, the book is fair for bedside browsing, and it does prove beyond doubt that psychologists have been desperately busy.

D. BANNISTER.

**Language and Thought.** Edited by DONALD C. HILDUM. New York and London: Van Nostrand. 1967. Pp. 201. Price 16s.

This curious collection of readings is assembled with the sort of foolish lust for togetherness which inspires a lot of multidisciplinary symposia. It assumes that a common subject will somehow unify diverse outlooks and purposes—as if a common interest in the dying integrated the thinking of priests, embalmers and will beneficiaries.

Here the common subject is language, and snippets on digital encoding or the role of the nasal consonant alternate with notes on grammatical systems, syntax and semantics. The editor provides frenetic little linking passages which envisage Sebock on the human nervous system as related to Kelly on construct theory because both make "binary" distinctions. Some of the papers quoted explicitly recognize that not all languages are cross-translatable. Chomsky flatly states that "any search for a semantically based definition of 'grammaticalness' will be futile" but this doesn't deter the editor from sorting grammar with semantics (and phonetics and syntax and speech



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