a useful introduction to it. Two papers by the editors stress historical aspects. The views of others well known for contributing to the concept are also represented. There are new papers by Rosenfeld, Kernberg and Searles. This book is a good investment for anyone who wants to learn about this developing field.

D. MACDIARMID, *Senior Lecturer in Psychotherapy, Middlesex Hospital, London*

Vagrancy. Some New Perspectives. Edited by TIM COOK. London: Academic Press. 1979. Pp 170. £9.50, £3.80 Paperback.

Bearing in mind that surveys have shown the majority of homeless men interviewed to be suffering from grosser forms of psychiatric morbidity, it is with a sense of incredulity that one reads in the literature review section of this book the statement that the author of that chapter has (with some exceptions) deliberately "chosen to ignore that body of work stressing the purely medical and pathological aspects of vagrancy" (p. 11). Elsewhere, a demand that starts reasonably enough for "a more comprehensive study of vagrancy" goes on to stipulate that "It must be a study which points to the necessity for widespread changes in society . . .". One has the uneasy feeling that this is not so much a scientific statement as a political one. It is also rather bewildering to see the result of the study specified before the research is done. Readers of this *Journal* will probably feel most at home with the chapter by Leach describing the careful evaluation by a research team from the Institute of Psychiatry of attempts at rehabilitation of homeless men by the St Mungo Community Trust.

ROBERT G. PRIEST, *Professor of Psychiatry, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London*

Notes About Books

Multimethod Clinical Assessment. By W. ROBERT NAY. Chichester: John Wiley. 1979. Pp 363. £14.00.

A detailed evaluation of assessment techniques which includes the clinical interview, as well as observational and psychophysiological techniques. It should be very useful for those who are unhappy about the generally unsatisfactory state of clinical documentation.

Psychiatric Diagnosis (2nd Edition). By DONALD W. GOODWIN and SAMUEL B. OUZE. Oxford University Press. 1979. Pp 254. £4.95.

A systematic approach to clinical syndromes which emphasizes description and natural history but deliberately eschews theory, describing itself as agnostic. The balance suffers though the text is packed with 'facts'.

H. G. MORGAN, *Professor of Mental Health, University of Bristol*

Handicapped Married Couples: A Welsh Study of Couples Handicapped from Birth by Mental, Physical or Personality Disorder. By ANN and MICHAEL CRAFT. Henley-on-Thames: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1979. Pp 200. £9.25.

A sympathetic study of 45 couples, one or both of whom were handicapped and many of whom overcame much of their disability.

Care of the Elderly Mentally Infirm. By BARBARA GRAY and BERNARD ISAACS. London: Tavistock Publications. 1979. Pp 221. £4.50.

Some useful suggestions for community social workers as to how to help the increasing proportion of the aged in the population.

Community Psychiatric Nursing. By P. J. CARR, C. A. BUTTERWORTH and B. E. HODGES. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1980. Pp 187. £4.95.

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