The author is a Greek who has lived in England since he was sixteen. He read medicine and psychiatry here and has an unusually sound and broad knowledge of his subjects. The presentation is in good readable English, which is a rare thing in itself, and the material is well presented. It would be possible to question a few of the statements but their numbers are so small that they point to the general reliability and excellence of the book.

M. H. B. JOYCE.

A Grammar of Human Values. By OTTO VON MEERING. University of Pittsburgh Press. 1961. Pp. 288. $4.50.

The introduction to this volume gives warning that it "will strike many anthropologists as being unfamiliar and novel". This is intended no doubt to refer to its contents, which have more in common with the writings of philosophically-minded German sociologists like Weber, Simmel or Scheler than they have to reports of empirical research. The general reader should also be warned of the pitfalls of sociological jargon which lie in wait for him: "For example, a manipulative and exploitative value orientation in conduct that is characteristic of some individuals may be merely the idiosyncratic variant of a dominant or cultural ideal of utilitarian perspectivism in conduct."

Social psychiatrists are well aware that public and individual attitudes represent powerful social forces, influencing for good or ill the course of what Dr. Foulds would have us call "personal illness", and these attitudes in turn are determined by personal and group values. Dr. Von Meering's undertaking is, therefore, most relevant. He has set out to establish an objective frame of reference against which to set the values—as measured by techniques of social-psychological inquiry—of particular subjects. To some readers the success of his enterprise may be questionable but at the least it represents a step in the right direction. G. W. LYNCH.

Correspondence

TWO CORRECTIONS

DEAR SIR,

In our article "A New Pattern in Day Hospital Development" (Jan. 1963), there is a brief description (pp. 29–30) of the Psychiatric Department of the West Middlesex Hospital, and it is stated that this includes a unit for "long-stay psycho-geriatric patients".

We would like to point out that this is incorrect and that the Department has always dealt with short-stay patients only.

Yours sincerely,
MORRIS MARKOWE
BRICE PITT

DEAR SIR,

I would like to point out a printing error which has occurred in my article "A Case of Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome", (March, 1963). The final sentence before the summary on page 210 should read "the smoothing function of the *system*" and not "symptom".

I should be grateful if you would consider drawing attention to this mistake in your next issue.

Yours sincerely,
IAN J. MACDONALD.

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