Accounting for Health, from a working party chaired by Professor Brian Abel Smith, is the weightier booklet, outlining an approach to evaluating units of activity input and their effectiveness and outcome throughout all the areas of medical services. It looks forward to a health budget of £4,000 million or more by the end of the century (in present day prices) with a labour force of a million, and outlines the steps to establishing an information system to give the public evidence of value it is getting for its money. While the enormous and comprehensive system they envisage may be neither feasible nor worthwhile, a convincing case is made out for the early introduction of new classifications of illness, disabilities and treatment. Such first steps would be likely to be valuable in themselves and in the formulation and testing of ideas about the effective organization of health services.

The booklet presents a clear and cogent approach to assessing our health services, but the authors admit that alternative methods may prove more practicable and more useful. It is a pity they do not explore more fully the role of controlled trials and other evaluative research.

The report on *Admission of Patients* reviews existing practice at 55 hospitals and finds widespread dissatisfaction and much innovation. While the conclusions apply specifically to general hospitals, this clear, sensible and informative account should be a useful guide to the solution of difficulties that so often make admission an undignified, unpleasant, inefficient and unnecessary battle for all concerned.

RICHARD MAYOU.

MISCELLANEOUS

Student Counselling in Practice. By AUDREY NEWSOME, BRIAN J. THORNE and KEITH L. WYLD. University of London Press. 1973. Pp. xii+187. Index 8 pp. Price £3.00 (boards). £1.50 (paper-back),

The authors work in the Appointments and Counselling Service of the University of Keele, which they claim was the first British university (together with Reading) to establish a counsellor training programme. In this small book they describe their philosophy of student counselling and illustrate their practice with case histories. Much of the philosophy is based on client-centred Rogerian counselling but behaviour therapy with emphasis on systematic desensitization 'aided at times in clinical settings by hypnosis and drugs' is also recommended.

The authors, who are non-medical, explain their close working relationship with the University Medical Services and a visiting psychiatrist, and are obviously 'sold' on their contribution to student health. Much of their advice is in the field of study problems and vocational guidance, and if they are competent in these fields they are doubtless contributing something useful. A medical reviewer may be pardoned if he expresses some concern over their para-medical activities, even if these are 'covered' by the local doctors.

This raises again the question of the lay psychologist with clinical aspirations. The late Sir David Henderson stated bluntly that the layman should not practice medicine. This reviewer would make the following amendment: the psychologist who would be a psychiatrist should first obtain a medical and psychiatric training. A number of psychologists who have so equipped themselves have amply illustrated the advantages. Those psychiatrists who would argue that a medical qualification is irrelevant to the practice of psychiatry and have the courage of their convictions should cease to register as medical practitioners. A copy of this book might be of interest to the Trethowan Committee.

MYRE SIM.

Early Human Development. Edited by S. J. HUTT and C. HUTT. Oxford University Press. 1973. Pp. 362. Price £2.50.

This is a collection of papers in the field of developmental psychology. The subjects covered include genetic and hormonal determinants of behaviour, effects of early experiences, perceptual capacities, fear and exploration, and development of attachment. Most of the papers are 'key' reviews or research-finding presentations, so that the book could be a useful acquisition for someone lacking access to journals covering child psychology. The editors have certainly collected their papers with judicious care, although I found it irritating that some have been abridged.

PHILIP GRAHAM.

AN APOLOGY

It is regretted that there was a mis-spelling of Dr. E. K. Ledermann's name in the review of his book, *Existential Neurosis*, in the February *Journal* (p. 217). We offer our apologies to Dr. Ledermann.

Editor.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.124.5.502-b Published online by Cambridge University Press