

BOOK REVIEWS

RANDY W. KAMPHAUS and CECIL R. REYNOLDS: *Clinical and Research Applications of the K-ABC*. American Guidance Service, Circle Pines, Minnesota (1987) 223 pages.

The Kaufman test for the measurement of intelligence (K-ABC) was released in April, 1983, followed by a propaganda campaign making exaggerated claims for the test, not only in the psychological literature, but also on television stations and elsewhere. This book reviews the empirical evidence concerning the test, and concludes that it is of some interest and importance, taking a place beside the Wechsler and the Binet tests in the study of the cognitive abilities of children. The new test has three separate scales (Sequential Processing, Simultaneous Processing, and Achievement; there is also a Mental Processing composite). These correlate quite highly with the Verbal, Performance and Full scales of the Wechsler, and the corresponding Binet scales, correlations in the 80s and 90s being the usual finding, although sequential processing does seem to show somewhat lower correlations, and may contribute something new. Conjoint factor analysis of the K-ABC with the WISC-R gives rise to a very marked g-factor equally prominent in both, and three rotated factors very similar to those usually found with the Wechsler—i.e. Verbal Comprehension, Perceptual Organization, and Freedom-From-Distractibility. Thus the structure of the K-ABC is in essence very similar to the WISC-R.

The book goes in very great detail into the available literature, dealing with technical characteristics and methods of test development, construct validity, criterion-related validity, profiles for exceptional samples, special interpretative procedures, and neuropsychological applications and research. The book will clearly be indispensable to anyone wanting to use the test clinically, or for research purposes. It is clearly written, well organized, and eschews exaggerated enthusiasm and over-zealous criticism. It is an example of how such books should be written.

H. J. EYSENCK

C. CRAWFORD, M. SMITH and D. KREBS (Eds): *Sociobiology and Psychology: Ideas, Issues and Applications*. Erlbaum, Hillsdale, N.J. (1987). 429 pages.

This is the first book to directly consider the value of sociobiology for psychology. Some of the leading pioneers of this new interdisciplinary interface present a 17-chapter feast of approaches, data and discussion. Following introductory chapters on the basics (C. Crawford, K. Noonan), evolutionary approaches are then considered in relation to the topics of epistemology (M. Ruse), altruism (D. Krebs), the mind (D. Symons), genetics (J. L. Fuller), kin recognition (R. H. Porter), race relations (I. Silverman), development (M. Smith), play (R. Fagen), human rape (R. Thornhill and N. W. Thornhill), family violence (M. Daly and M. Wilson), suicide (D. de Catanzaro), sex differences in mate selection (D. Buss), incest taboos (P. L. van den Berghe), and rules of marriage (N. W. Thornhill and R. Thornhill). Given the fascination most people have with these topics it is surprising that the sociobiological approach is not more popular. This book should help speed things along. Often written at a level suitable for advanced psychology undergraduates, these essays serve as an exciting introduction to this burgeoning field of enquiry, providing much food for thought, as well as a thorough bibliography.

J. PHILIPPE RUSHTON

I. MARKOVA: *Human Awareness*. Hutchinson, London (1987). 273 pages. £8.95 (paperback).

Human Awareness is an important book that uses 'awareness', an almost metaphysical notion, to provide a scaffold for discourse among many subspecialities that are not often combined under the same psychological roof. The author suggests that "human awareness is an essential aspect of individuals' monitoring their own actions, and of their understanding of the consequences of their actions with respect to future decision making"; thus, in his terms, the core of human behavior. He develops his argument from a developmental and social psychological perspective. He relies heavily on data from these fields. Markova also incorporates information from a broad vista including literature, the arts, and biological and neurophysiological data as well.

In a traditional manner he commences his argument with the biological/cultural aspects of human awareness and raises the provocative question of 'non-human' awareness. In a less traditional organization, the text continues to review awareness of others, 'empathy', human agency, self-awareness communication, aggression, the larger society. In this final chapter the author tackles large questions regarding the meaning of the self-society and change. It is in the role of the creative person, in interaction with the generalized other that, he maintains, provides a crucial ingredient for social change. Throughout the text he correlates specific human awareness to the larger issues of human awareness, i.e. aggression and manipulation to developmental and social psychological principles.

Since development of self awareness is dependent on attention and the development of self, more detail might have been given to these topics, particularly in light of the latest neurophysiological data on attention and the expanding theory of self in the psychoanalytic literature.

This book would be an appropriate adjunct for an advanced course in developmental, social or general psychology. It is well worth reading—and rereading.

HELEN WARREN ROSS