

BOOK REVIEWS

L. ZUSNE and W. H. JONES: *Anomalistic Psychology. A Study of Extraordinary Phenomena of Behavior and Experience*. Erlbaum, Hillsdale, N.J. (1982). xiii + 498 pp. 19.95.

This is a curious book on a curious topic which, according to the authors, is being taught more and more widely in psychology courses in the U.S.A. It deals with 'extraordinary phenomena of behaviour and experience', including such things as astrology, parapsychology, UFOs, magic, occultism etc. The book has several curious features, including a 'Subject and Name Index', which includes only an arbitrary selection of fewer than 10% of the names actually quoted in the book; this makes checking extremely difficult. Thus the important Gauquelin studies are referred to in some detail on page 220, but there is no mention of Gauquelin in the name index!

The treatment is critical, but not very accurate. Thus the author says that "Gauquelin's own statistical assumptions have been severely criticised, but this issue has not been settled yet." This is not correct. There have been full discussions between Gauquelin and astronomers and statisticians, and Gauquelin has accepted the critical comment and shown that even when he adopts the methods recommended by his critics, highly-significant results are obtained. This kind of error should not appear in what is intended as a textbook, but it is symptomatic of similar errors throughout, all of which favour a negative position towards parapsychological phenomena. The book is interesting in parts, but it is one-sidedly partisan, and insufficiently knowledgeable to be acceptable.

H. J. EYSENCK

B. D. SMITH and H. J. VETTER: *Theoretical Approaches to Personality*. Prentice-Hall, London (1982). xi + 404 pp.

Ho-hum, another 'theories of personality' book on the market. Anything new? Not especially. Of the 15 chapters in the book, 8 are concerned with such historical figures as Freud, Eriksen, Jung, Adler, Allport, Rogers, Kelley and Lewin. Two others provide a rather mundane introduction and conclusion. This leaves 5 chapters for scientific approaches. Unfortunately, the 3 chapters devoted to behavioural social learning conceptions (S-R theory, Skinner, Bandura and Mischel) and the 2 to trait approaches (Cattell, Eysenck) are neither inspiring nor up-to-date. The most recent references in this 1982 book, for example, are 1978 for Bandura, 1973 for Mischel, 1974 for Cattell and 1978 for Eysenck. This is particularly surprising since one of the features of the book is supposedly the fact that "Every living theorist provided a careful and helpful review of the chapter on his own work" (p. X). How long ago, I wonder? Many recent theoretical developments are either not covered at all or only poorly so. There is no coverage of sociobiology, for example, and only passing references to Eysenck's Psychoticism dimension, the heritability of personality, and recent attempts to resolve the 'consistency versus specificity of behaviour' issue. The most positive thing I can say about this book is that it is probably no worse than a couple of the other shorter versions of Hall and Lindzey's now classic *Theories of Personality*.

J. PHILIPPE RUSHTON

J. R. ROYCE and A. POWELL: *Theory of Personality and Individual Differences: Factors, Systems and Processes*, Century Psychology Series. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. (1983). 290 pp.

This book has been in the making for many years; it represents a theoretical approach based on systems theory and information processing, and tries to link these concepts with factorial studies of personality and intelligence, as well as with sensory and motor transduction systems. The book is very inclusive, in that it deals with many different aspects of individual differences, and it is very theoretical, often to the exclusion of important details and references. How is it possible for anyone to write less than two pages on heredity, environment and individuality, without ever quoting the major contributions to the field by Loehlin and Nichols, by Buss and Plomin, or by Eaves and Eysenck? By constraining the book to a total length of less than 300 pages, the authors have made a choice between theory and summary of factual research which leans so much in the direction of theory that the reader is often dissatisfied by lack of sufficient empirical documentation.

One of the most important contributions of the book is the attempt to summarize the replicated factor structures in the fields of abilities, temperament etc.; these are both interesting and important, and should be taken seriously by all students of individual differences in these varied fields. In relation to temperament, the authors arrive at a factor structure which at the highest level contains three major factors which they identify as emotional stability, emotional independence, and introversion-extraversion, drawing attention to the similarity of these factors to those of N, P and E in the reviewer's system. The model also includes lower level factors in a persuasive diagram.

A brief review cannot do justice to the authors in trying to establish a synthesis between factorial results, genetic arguments, and general psychology. It is clearly imperative for anyone interested in meta-psychological theoretical systems to study the book most carefully; to many psychologists the effort at unification may appear premature, and overly theoretical, in ways that would be difficult to test empirically. It is not for the reviewer to express an opinion; given the importance of the effort, its relative success can only be ascertained in due course by looking at the influence it has had on structuring the field for psychologists, and in originating research.

H. J. EYSENCK