

Book Reviews

America's Resources of Specialized Talent. A current appraisal and a look ahead. Report of the Commission on Human Resources and Advanced Training; Dael Wolfe, director. Harper, New York, 1954. xvii + 332 pp. Illus. \$4.

This book is the report of the study begun in 1949 by the Commission on Human Resources and Advanced Training and financed by the Rockefeller Foundation. Its 332 pages are crammed with valuable and fascinating factual material on the intelligence, education, and utilization of men and women with unusual talents in the sciences, arts, social studies, and other professions.

The purpose of the volume is well summarized in the concluding chapter:

America is ambivalent toward the scholar. It wants rocket ships and atomic-powered submarines, a cure for cancer and bigger television screens. . . . But it mistrusts the people who have the ability and education that might lead to these desired end products.

These doubts limit the extent to which the nation can capitalize on its intellectual resources and thus limit its progress, but the limitation is unnecessary and can be overcome. . . . The practical problem becomes one of devising the best means of nurturing the talent which lies in the population.

Since 1900, says the report, the number of specialists in the U.S. has grown twice as fast as the population. The demand is certain to increase; and college graduates, who constitute almost the sole supply, will double in number in the next 15 years. This doubling could take place today with no loss of quality if all those in the upper quartile in intelligence could be motivated to go to college—and could afford to do so. The present shortage will have to be filled by better use of existing specialists. In the long run, the greatest hope lies in the early identification and the encouragement of specialized talent.

Dael Wolfe's volume stands as a unique summary of the facts and problems in the whole field of specialized talent. It will be indispensable to the educator, the counselor, and to government and private manpower agencies.

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Fundamentals of Psychoanalytic Technique. Trygve Braatøy. Wiley, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1954. xi + 404 pp. \$6.

Trygve Braatøy was possessed of a clinical intuition which enabled him to give his patients the full benefit of his own thorough training in medicine, psychiatry, and psychoanalysis. This ability to communicate his experience is evident in this book in which, on a base of standard psychoanalytic theory, he describes the application of theory to daily practice and the tech-

nical modifications and fresh approaches he has evolved. For the most part, these modifications aim toward the fuller expression of affects related to the body and bodily processes in the analysis and consequently toward furtherance of a unified psychosomatic growth.

Important sections deal with the emotions of the analyst, the indications and analytic contraindications for psychoanalytic therapy and the science of interpretation. Regarding the controversial short-term methods of analysis, Braatøy believes that criticism and mistrust have been too hasty and, had the reported clinical histories been studied, some of the most orthodox analysts would have agreed with the treatment methods advocated.

Throughout the author pleads for taking time in clinical description and in studying the descriptions of others. He avoids dogma in his own teaching and seeks rather to help the student develop his individual art and science, leaving to the student, as to the patient, the last word.

With its fresh approach and its rich originality, Braatøy's book is a contribution to the psychoanalytic literature and will be of great use to students, practitioners, and teachers.

DOUGLAS NOBLE

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The Technical Report. Its preparation, processing, and use in industry and government. B. H. Weil, Ed. Reinhold, New York, 1954. xii + 485 pp. Illus. \$12.

Weil and his 22 collaborators have attempted to put together a handbook on the preparation, processing, and use of technical reports in industry and government. On the whole they have succeeded. There is here much good advice for the report writer, editor, and librarian.

The authors deal mostly with research reports as a means for exchange of scientific information. In a few instances, however, technical reports are treated as active management tools, useful in research direction and planning, production control, market research, personnel administration, and even morale building, that is, the writing of a report lifts the cloak of anonymity from the man on the bench. He is stimulated to do better work and is better satisfied with his job.

At least one-third of the book is devoted to the organization, classification, storage, and retrieval of reports. This is appropriate, for as Vannevar Bush vigorously points out, our inability to make full use of the record is "the region of greatest moment, in which our ignorance and ineptitude are most serious, which will slow down our progress if it continues in its present state."

The authors describe an imposing array of mechan-