

vigorously—as, say, Kołakowski does in “The Priest and the Jester”—his book would have been greatly improved. If he had also tried to relate the homilies he was analyzing to the social and political context that gave them meaning, the book would have been even better.

Evidently Payne avoids sociology of knowledge for fear of being unfair. To correlate official stimuli and scholarly responses, and vice versa, seems to cast aspersions on both sides, to engage in ad hominem attacks on thinkers rather than irenic analysis of thought. Unfortunately there are some kinds of thought that are meaningless if abstracted from their social and political contexts. And as for fairness to Rubinshtein, stripping his thought of meaning may be a greater insult than revealing its acrobatic balancing between the know-nothing passions of his Stalinist bosses and the intellectual requirements of his colleagues in psychology and philosophy.

DAVID JORAVSKY
Northwestern University

CHILD PSYCHIATRY IN THE SOVIET UNION: PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS. By *Nancy Rollins, M.D.* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1972. xx, 293 pp. \$12.95.

This is the first book in English dealing with the theory, practice, and organization of child psychiatry in the Soviet Union. Despite the modest title, the observations are considerably more than preliminary. Not only is this study of interest and value in the area of professional therapy, it also provides numerous insights into Russian cultural attitudes which have an effect on character and personality development. It should therefore attract the attention of an audience considerably beyond the scope of medicine. Dr. Nancy Rollins was by professional standing well qualified to take on the project. In addition, she prepared herself for the task by learning Russian and becoming thoroughly familiar with the Soviet psychiatric literature. She is successful in achieving her aim of elaborating our knowledge in the areas of theory, diagnosis, and treatment of psychiatric disorders of children.

Reporting in full detail the bureaucratic organization of services is scientifically necessary, but it makes for slow reading. Also, the Russian predilection for accounting for psychic disorders as ultimate sequellae of infections, such as la grippe, tonsillitis, infantile dysentery, and especially rheumatic involvement of the central nervous system, must be puzzling to the general reader and of dubious validity to the psychologically oriented therapist. The text would flow with more grace if the case material appearing in the appendix were brought back into the body of the volume. In exchange the neurological and possibly pseudo-neurological extrapolations could be relegated to the appendix.

The sections on historical and social perspectives, treatment methods, and the interrelation of the social environment and psychiatric disorders are of particular value. Assimilation of the material by psychotherapists of our culture will inevitably influence therapeutic procedures and increase our awareness of psychosocial factors in psychological functioning.

ALEC SKOLNICK, M.D.
San Mateo, California