

REVIEW

MODERN HOSPITAL HYPNOSIS. ESPECIALLY FOR ANAESTHETISTS. BY D. L. SCOTT.
PUBL. LLOYD-LUKE. LONDON 1974. PG. 203. PRICE: £3.00 STERLING.

The cause of hypnotism as a science has suffered by its past association with the occult and its many flamboyant practitioners. As a result, it has been banned at one time as the art of the devil by the Church, and also has faced ostracism as charlatanism and quackery by orthodox medicine. In recent years, there has been a resurgence of professional interest leading to a limited measure of acceptance. However, published literature in this field is still sparse, and not entirely freed of statements, which savours more of religious dogma than scientific experience.

This book is written chiefly for the hospital anaesthetists, and the style is lucid and the attitude a reserved one. The author does not disguise the present ignorance we have of the nature of hypnotic trance, but marshalls most of the known data for consideration. The practical application is well

set out and easy to follow, and any student of hypnosis can get a good basis from it.

Certain aspects remain to be sources of worry to serious students of hypnotism, such as the suggestion of predictability to persuade a reluctant subject, and presenting of so-called ego-strengthening suggestions in detail as if the human ego can be affected rapidly and facily by some easy formulary. The inclusion of the chapter on sophrology is also dubious in that there does not seem to be serious proof that the so-called "sophronogic" consciousness has a separate existence.

Nevertheless, it is to my mind one of the most readable and least flamboyant of current literature on the subject, and at its price is a well worth buy by anyone interested in hypnotism as a serious subject.

Dr. Gwee Ah Long

ASSOCIATION NOTES

FUND FOR ADVANCEMENT OF CARDIOLOGY

"There is available a fund for the Advancement of Cardiology administered by the Academy of Medicine in Singapore.

This fund can be made available for travel expenses, research grants and any other projects that will contribute to the Advancement of Cardiology in Singapore.

Applications should be directed to:—

The Scribe,
Academy of Medicine,
4A College Road,
Singapore 3."
