

lack of editorial experience on the part of the publisher, or whether this lack also appeared in the Russian text and was not improved in the English text makes little difference. The book could have been a classic but fails for lack of careful translation, an index, coherent editing, and careful publishing.

Scientists: Their Psychological World. By Bernice T. Eiduson. 299 pp. Basic Books, Inc., New York, 1962. \$6.50. Reviewed by J. Arol Simpson, National Bureau of Standards.

ALTHOUGH the image which comes to mind of physical scientists hard at work studying the universe while the behavioral scientists are just as industriously studying the physical scientists is a ludicrous one, the object of the author's efforts is a commendable one. Since scientists have become a "national resource", anything that can be learned about them and about their nurturing is, I suppose, important. From the more selfish viewpoint, anything that can be done to improve the "stereotype" of the "mad" physical scientist will improve the social climate in which we must live and work.

The approach used here was to interview "in depth" (several hours) and give a set of psychological tests to forty successful research scientists, proving incidentally that at least one characteristic of scientists is exceptional patience, and from the results of these tests and interviews to attempt to find patterns of behavior, thought, or interior organization which are common to most or all. There was apparently hope that from these patterns some would be helpful in early recognition of material capable of being molded into scientists.

As might have been anticipated, these hopes were not fulfilled. The scientists displayed a diversity of backgrounds which fell into no obvious patterns. This is not true of thought pattern and interior organization where a scientist pattern is recognizable at least a posteriori.

The book for my taste is marred by the usual maddening syntax involving "psychodynamics" and similar jargon typical of behavioral scientists and by the usual reaching for deeper meaning "out of Freud by imagination" so beloved by these people, especially the clinical types.

Yet, when the author forgets the formalism and deals with the essence of her profession, she shows herself to be a perceptive observer, and her remarks on the fairly new breeds of scientists such as the "9 to 5" or "gentlemen scientists" and the "team scientists" are significant. Her ability to spot inconsistencies in our viewpoint, such as our fear of "geniuses", i.e., "screwballs", which fear is contrary to our professed model of a scientist, is frightening. The extensive quotes from the interviews make fascinating reading.

I recommend this book heartily to all who have any interest in our profession as a human endeavor and also to all our wives who will learn that they are not alone in having somewhat difficult husbands.



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