predecessors. This has given the author's map of the ethical world a lasting value; but, not only does this book have behind it the impetus of three centuries of philosophy, it also has an authority unique to itself because of Dr Campbell's resolute refusal to countenance the possibility of some all-embracing ethical formula based on a purely logical amalgam, or aggregation, of the best aspects of liberty, equality and fraternity. Given that situations differ in space and in time, such an amalgam or aggregation, could never have been more than an exercise in academic futility – except, of course, to the extent that the search for a formula is always the search for an authoritarian, or 'managerial', solution.

Men must decide their own destiny; and this book makes it clear that there is no alternative to a procedure which allows for, and encourages, the rich interplay of different perspectives.

To this end, Dr Campbell proposes Peter Berger-type 'intermediate structures', through which would be mediated, not alienation, but participation, involvement and the positive growth of human potential.

This anti-authoritarian stance goes well with the author's sympathetic approach to the existentialist aspects of Marxism. Donne said that sickness was 'loss of self', and the way in which Dr Campbell correlates health with autonomy (which is 'freedom for' rather than 'freedom from') while at the same time substituting the language of 'shared aspirations' for the language of 'individual gain', makes me a little regretful that he has not been able to bring the existentialist position more fully into the reckoning.

Notoriously ambivalent about liberty, equality and fraternity – and subscribing to their own particular 'Trinity' – the existentialist philosophers are primarily concerned with man's awesome responsibility to make the hard and painful choices through which he can at last begin to shape his own future. From this

point of view, it may not simply be a question of moving resources sideways from the acute sector to the long-term one – a shift of emphasis which would be regarded in a favourable light by Dr Campbell (but which is not without its difficulties since the elderly themselves are now exerting increasing pressure on the acute facilities). Instead, it may actually be a question of moving resources, over time, from both of these sectors into the immensely difficult areas of prevention and health-promotion, with funds being committed outwith the health service altogether *eg* to housing, employment, social work etc., and with the notion of the 'community itself as doctor' being ever more actively fostered. How to effect this vast shift from a disease service to a health service, and from a health service to a healthy society – that, too, is an ethical question of the first order of magnitude.

DRUMMOND HUNTER

Reasoning about madness

J K Wing
Oxford University Press, 1978, pp 256 £3.50

In reading this book one cannot but admire the breadth of the approach with which Professor Wing addresses his subject. Unfortunately the book suffers somewhat from this very quality. Allowing for the demands of size, the selection of theories reviewed must inevitably be restricted and thus we come to realise the author's personal view quite definitely. Having said this I was still impressed by its range. In particular, the chapters on schizophrenia and on psychiatry and political dissent are well worth attention. Both chapters reflect the author's unflagging curiosity and scholarship and give the uninitiated a glimpse into the topic, sufficient to make him look further.

The chapters on the history of the development of Mental Hospitals and Service and legal structures

associated are very weak. I suspect that this occurs as the book very much reflects Professor Wing's London and Institute Psychiatry bias in recent years. Having myself spent many years working North of the Border I feel he missed the immense influence the Scottish scene has had on psychiatry in this country. The Scottish legal scene was always different from England so that patients were admitted voluntarily and doors were open much in advance of South of the Border. In addition the Mental Welfare Commission's role, in being the patient's ombudsman, has now undoubtedly been proved as far exceeding that of the Mental Health Tribunals and some detail with regard to this would have been helpful. In the field of care the influence of the Social Psychiatrist is I feel inadequately dealt with in the book though this may be my personal bias. Maxwell Jones' contribution to psychiatry is much wider than the Henderson Hospital – he revolutionised the idea of the Area Service at Dingleton Hospital, Melrose – one does not have to go to Leningrad as Professor Wing did to see a Community Care Service which encompasses client and family support, 24-hour Acute Service and Shelter. Also in the concept of secondary prevention I consider the work of the people at Napsbury Hospital with their crisis intervention unit should be seen as a growth point. Maybe a psychiatrist with a more personal experience rather than metropolitan would have seen things a little different.

Despite my critical reactions I would recommend this book to the interested lay person and the committed professional. Professor Wing will teach both a lot. He has gone into this subject with a very wide over view. In addition I was impressed at the author's obvious enthusiasm and felt positively held and excited by the process of discovery as he related it.

J V BASSON