

GENETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA — A Study of Schizophrenic Twins and Their Families

By Margit Fischer. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, Supplementum 238. Munksgaard, Copenhagen 1973. Bound volume; 16 × 24 cm; 158 pages; author index and subject index. Price not indicated.

In spite of Don Jackson's strong adverse criticism and doubts on the validity and reliability of twin studies in schizophrenia (but his paper goes back to 1960 and his analysis regards previous findings that may be actually the object of methodological criticism) this monograph by Margit Fischer testifies the continuous and increasing interest in twin studies and is only the latest of many papers founded on twin methodology to have come out in the last ten years.

The Psychiatric Twin Register, composed up to now of 395 same-sexed twin pairs, was founded in Denmark and obtained from two registers, the Danish Twin Register and the Central Psychiatric Register. Seventy same-sexed pairs, in which one or both twins were diagnosed as schizophrenics (21 MZ, 5 with uncertain zygoty, and 44 DZ), were extracted from this register; these pairs constitute the material on which Fischer worked extending to a thorough study of their families.

The monograph includes careful psychological examinations by A.L. Christensen of 5 pairs of MZ twins.

In the appendix, the case histories of the 21 MZ twin pairs are reported.

The results of Fischer's study support previous findings in this field and indicate that both genetic and environmental factors are responsible for the development of schizophrenia.

An interesting remark is that the comparison of intrapair similarity between MZ and DZ concordant pairs indicates that age at onset and subtype of schizophrenia were mostly genetically determined, while severity varied considerably among both MZ and DZ concordant pairs, indicating that nonhereditary factors might be of more importance.

Nevertheless, the difficulty remains to identify the specific nature of the environmental factors, in this as in other similar studies; for instance, the dominance submissiveness situation is specific for the twin relationship and is difficult to be transcribed to the situation of single-born schizophrenics, which should be the ultimate goal.

Roberto Tatarelli

GUIDA ALLO STUDIO DELL'ANATOMIA DELL'UOMO — Seconda edizione

*Guide to the Study of the Anatomy of Man* — Second edition

By Z. Fumagalli. Francesco Vallardi Editore, Milano 1971. Five bound volumes; 17 × 24 cm; 2504 pages; 536 drawings, 290 black-and-white and 287 colored illustrations. Price: It. L. 82 000 (approximately US \$ 140).

ATLANTE FOTOGRAFICO A COLORI DI ANATOMIA MACROSCOPICA DELL'UOMO

*Atlas of Macroscopic Anatomy of Man*

By Z. Fumagalli, G. Marinozzi, E. Nesci, A. Santoro. Francesco Vallardi Editore, Milano 1973. Three bound volumes; 22 × 31.5 cm; 208 pages; 410 colored tables. Price: It. L. 60 000 (approximately US \$ 100).

Anatomy has been presented for years in often famous treatises, different as to size, scope, illustrations and print, but generally following a predominantly analytical structure.

The originality of Professor Fumagalli's work stems from its rational, biological structure, in which man is reassembled at last in his full morpho-functional unity.

Readers used to the centuries-old teaching schemes of Anatomy may find the new criteria disconcerting at first. Yet, as they proceed, they will fully appreciate the new way of relating morphology to physiopathology (see, for instance, the chapters on anastomotic networks and on lymphatic vessels).