

**Family.**

By MARGARET MEAD and KEN HEYMAN. 208 pages. Cloth. Macmillan. New York. 1965. Price \$10.00.

A book of beautiful photographs of families from all over the world is accompanied by an urbane text describing the essential features of the structure and function of the family group. It is a somewhat romanticized treatment, but a good book for introducing the layman to an understanding of a vital and ubiquitous social phenomenon, experienced by everyone but, perhaps because of its very familiarity, understood by few.

**Positive Disintegration.**

By KAZIMIERZ DABROWSKI, M.D. xxviii and 132 pages. Cloth. Little Brown. Boston. 1964. Price \$5.50.

The Polish psychiatric movement was separated from both the East and the West by the second World War and developed in almost a vacuum as the Germans successfully eliminated not only the mental patients but the psychiatrists, only a few of whom were left after the war. Dr. Aronson, the editor of this book, has written an excellent introduction explaining the development of Dabrowski's theory of positive disintegration, and suggesting that it would be difficult for most western psychiatrists to accept it. This critic has this difficulty from the first paragraph of the opening chapter which states:

"The ONTOGENETIC DEVELOPMENT OF MAN is characterized by factors which appear, increase, reach their peak, and then become weaker and even disappear. This growth and decay, development and destruction, increase and decrease, occurs with emotional factors as well as with intellectual ones, with physiological and with anatomical elements."

Although there is no question that man's brain limits his psychological development it is difficult to believe that all of his emotional development is dependent on ontogenetic factors. Further along, the author describes feelings of sympathy, religious drives and social needs—as instincts.

In many ways the author's psychological theory is based on various dynamic principles of all the western schools of psychology along with an attempt to integrate them with Hughlings Jackson's theory of levels of integration and Meyer's psychobiology. Dabrowski's main contribution consists of some new semantics and a lowering of the importance of the unconscious—with insistence that conscious processes bring about new integrations and development.

In many areas he appears to stress psychological homeostasis without using this term. It is well known that almost any theory of psychology, when applied to particular cases, can be effective and there is no doubt that Dabrowski's method is also effective in certain cases.