

- Sadger, Isidor (1929) *Sigmund Freud: Persönliche Erinnerungen von Dr. I. Sadger* (Vienna: Ernst Wengraf); see Note 1.
- Sadger, Isidor (2005) *Recollecting Freud*, edited and introduced by Alan Dundes, translated by Johanna Micaela Jacobsen and Alan Dundes (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press); originally published in 1929.
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Ingrid G. Farreras, Caroline Hannaway and Victoria A. Harden (eds). **Mind, Brain, Body, and Behavior. Foundations of Neuroscience and Behavioral Research at the National Institutes of Health.** *Amsterdam: IOS Press, 2004. Pp. xxvi + 366. \$92.00. ISBN 1-58603-471-5.*

In order to ‘appreciate the groundbreaking discoveries we have made in recent years in the field of neuroscience [...] we must first understand the context of what came before’ – such is the justification of the two directors of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the volume under review (Foreword, p. ix).

Mind, Brain, Body, and Behavior is a historical study of the intramural programmes in the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Blindness (NINDB) in the early post-war period. It gives detailed descriptions of the research groups and their scientific activities. While the first half of the book consists of a history of the institutions and a presentation of their laboratories and branches (mostly based on Annual Reports and interviews), the second half is a collection of oral histories by scientists who worked at the NIH in the 1950s. Four appendixes include member lists and bibliographies of papers that were produced at the time.

This wealth of material, however, remains largely unsynthesized. The encyclopaedic discussion of the different research branches and their interactions, of laboratories of neurophysiology and socio-environmental studies working closely together, only suggests the complexity of the joint research effort undertaken. At no point does the book discuss how it was possible to establish these ties between seemingly different disciplines under the joint heading of ‘psychiatric research’.

Drawing on both the psychoanalytic and the physiological roots of the study of the mind sciences, the NIH was always going to be a contested space. This is implied in an appeal made by ‘some psychiatrists’ to physiologist Seymour Kety, on his appointment as head of the basic research programme, ‘not to drive another nail into the coffin of psychiatry’ (p. 36). However, the authors do not treat the larger context of these anxieties, nor do they specify exactly who these psychiatrists were, and how Kety met their plea.

The book begs several questions to a historian of psychiatry: What kind of discipline was psychiatry at the time? What did it mean for psychiatry to receive large-scale governmental, rather than philanthropic, funding? How did this public acknowledgment of psychiatry affect its self-understanding, and its relation to the other mind sciences? Most centrally, what kind of 'interdisciplinarity' did the NIH represent, and how was it practised? Where the authors do attempt to answer these kinds of questions, they quite strictly follow the teleological orientation expressed in the directors' foreword. The mission of the NIH to promote interdisciplinary psychiatric research remains an empty formula in this book, for it is always understood from a modern perspective. When director Story Landis writes in her epilogue that the task of NIH now is to 'put the brain back together' (p. 303), it is ironic that by calling their object of research the 'brain', she refers to an interdisciplinarity that is limited to the extent that it groups the different fields within neuroscience, not psychiatry.

The material presented is interesting, and, as Gerald Grob notes in his 'Historical Foreword', the book does fill a void in the history of biomedical research institutions in the USA. Historians of psychiatry will find in *Mind, Brain, Body, and Behavior* not only a reliable reference work, but also a useful collection of primary sources. In its current state, however, the book is unlikely to attract readers from outside the historical community. Being at the same time a raw and (teleologically) *over*-synthesized account, it demands, rather than provides, a sensitive history of the period.

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