relaxed style, a generous spirit, and a clear recollection of men and events now passing into history. He has turned his retirement to good account in producing this combination of autobiography and historical survey. The story of Scottish psychiatry has been little known, at any rate in England and America, and the detailed record of its ups and downs from the days of Andrew Duncan makes it clear that the Scottish contribution has been noteworthy, though at times occluded. However the most attractive chapter of the book is on 'Personal training and experience', in which Sir David recalls with characteristic warmth of feeling a varied and fruitful professional life. His obiter dicta are a humanist's commentary on some important aspects of conduct and a psychiatrist's appraisal of the achievements and setbacks in his chosen field.

PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESSES IN IDENTICAL TWINS By P. Tienari.

Twin studies are beset by many difficulties, of which the method of selection is perhaps the one most likely to affect the results. The starting material of this investigation was all the pairs of male twins born in Finland in the years 1920-29 and alive at the beginning of 1958 and resident in Finland. Forty-nine of the 125 identical pairs interviewed by the author were considered to be suffering from a psychiatric illness. The most startling result was that of 16 schizophrenic twins the identical co-twin was discordant in every instance, although many showed schizoid traits. There was about 50% concordance in the diagnostic classifications of neurosis and psychopathy. A diagnosis of neurosis was made in eight of the co-twins of the psychotic patients, suggesting that neurotic and psychotic symptoms are not genetically distinguishable. Fortunately, in an investigation so much at variance with previous studies, a full account is given, both of the method of selection of patients and of their case histories, since problems of selection and diagnostic classification are fundamental in genetic studies on twins with psychiatric illnesses.


A monograph which is based on the careful study of 222 homosexual men in a psychiatric clinic gives promise of a more objective review of the psychological and clinical problems than is to be found in most writings on this subject. Dr. Freud has been making systematic observations in the Prague University Clinic for the last eight years, and the results set out here cover the manifest varieties of homosexual behaviour, diagnosis of homosexual proclivity by laboratory examination, its relationship to abnormal mental syndromes, and its aetiology and pathology, as well as treatment by hormones, by the somatic therapies used in psychiatry, and by psychological methods. Under the last head there is a comprehensive survey of existing information about the effects of psychotherapy on homosexuals, with an account of how the author used aversion therapy, with modest success. Dr. Freud's scrupulous care not to make unsubstantiated claims is conspicuous throughout this informative, well-documented monograph.