Reviews and Notices of Books.


The theory and technique of the individual psychology associated with the name of Alfred Adler are here fully and ably described by one of his pupils, Dr. Erwin Wexberg of Vienna. Adler's general evolution of his theory from its basis in the conception of organ inferiority is sketched in considerable detail, and later developments are also examined, showing that the theory consists of much more than a combination of the elements of 'inferiority complex' and 'will to power.' Character and personality are shown to be compounded of the action of diverse factors, among which the family, social and economic states, sex, and education are all allotted due significance. In Adler's view neurosis arises when the individual seeks to attain personal goals which as a member of a community he "dare not admit to himself, and therefore dare not openly pursue." He may be considered mentally healthy, on the other hand, when "the social feeling has appeared in the conduct of the individual and he has developed the ability to 'give out.'" From this general conception the corollary follows that "the mental predisposition to be neurotic is present to a greater or less extent in every human being"; whether it proceeds to a neurosis depends on circumstances. Thus the line between neurosis and health cannot be drawn with any regularity or ease, and the suggestion here made is to the effect that the ability of a man to work or 'hold his job' is a useful criterion of mental normality. The same psychological mechanisms which determine the evolution of the neuroses are responsible for the psychoses, the essential difference residing in the fact that the 'insane' person has "lost his insight into the nature of his illness and has completely failed to make the proper adjustment to his fellow men."

As a compendium of Adlerian doctrine the book is to be recommended, while the simplicity of the language and the smoothness of the translation enhance its readable qualities.

Of the multitude of available treatises dealing with sleep and its disorders that by Dr. Crichton-Miller is the most recent, and certainly one of the most practical. Considerably less attention is allotted to hypersomnic conditions than to those characterised by insomnia, chiefly because he believes the practitioner sees few of the former cases. Be this as it may, importance is not to be estimated by frequency alone; and for any scientific study of sleep disturbances no inherent reason exists why those of a negative kind should be examined at much greater length than their opposites. But there is doubtless a good practical reason; people mind losing their sleep very much, whereas hours or minutes of extra slumber are not calculated to arouse anxiety, at least in the first instance. Again, states of sleep inversion are significant out of proportion to their numbers, but all that Dr. Crichton-Miller tells us is that "in so far as any post-encephalitic symptom is amenable to treatment, these abnormalities of sleep can be similarly dealt with." Some refractoriness as regards therapeutic measures should not, we think, justify this assumption of a kind of therapeutic nihilism.

The author is at his best in the detailed consideration he furnishes of the multitude of methods—medicinal and psychological—for the successful combatting of insomnia. Throughout this section of the book runs a vein of healthy common sense which must find an echo in the mind of all who have had to deal with the patient no less than with his disability. Dr. Crichton-Miller's book should be a vade mecum for the busy practitioner.


We reviewed favourable the first edition of this textbook on its appearance in 1927 (this Journal, vol. viii, p. 185). It must be gratifying to the authors to find a second edition called for within a comparatively brief period. Some few pages have been added to the length of the book, which has undergone revision and slight modification. In its present form it is assured of continued appreciation.


This closely packed volume forms in reality a succinct treatise on psychiatry, seeing that it deals with much more than simple differential diagnosis. An
introduction discusses general symptomatology in an interesting way, examining in turn somatic and mental semiology, the latter at some length. The chief part of the book provides the reader with a modern account of the symptomatic psychoses, dementia paralytica, involution psychoses, schizophrenia, manic-depressive psychosis, paranoia, epilepsy, and a whole series of 'psychopathies' of heterogeneous class (prison psychoses, narcolepsy, hysteria, pseudologia phantastica, and many more). We do not cavil at the author's selection of epilepsy and narcolepsy for inclusion in his book, nor indeed with his attention to neurasthenia, morphinism, and other states of interest to the neurologist; on the contrary, their description by a psychiatrist is highly desirable. But their more strictly neurological aspect is here rather underestimated, and in one or two points rather misunderstood.

Taken as a whole, the book undoubtedly answers its purpose well and offers the student 'good value.'


How to live well is a theme which has exercised the minds of philosophers and sages since the beginning of time, and there is no good reason for supposing that present-day thinkers have come into possession of a key to the science of living inaccessible to their forerunners of other centuries. 'Le bonheur de ce monde' is but a combination of circumstances and of the individual's way of looking at things, and if stress is being laid today on the betterment of that individual by the application of self-knowledge no claim for novelty in this connexion can be countenanced. The reader in these times is bombarded by psychological treatises and booklets all of which repeat in his ears 'do this and ye shall live,' but whether proof is forthcoming of the superlative efficacy of their several techniques as compared with others, older, and at least equally well-tried, is a matter often conveniently ignored. Little is heard at present of any plea for a simple and normal life unless based on principles derived, as it frequently appears, from consideration of cases of neurosis, misery, and disease. Dr. Adler is no exception; in this readable work of his the following sentence occurs; "Normal children, if there be such, do not concern us." This generalisation scarcely requires comment, so self-revelatory is it. Child guidance is declared to provide the clue for the future avoidance of neurosis and all it brings in its train. Happy marriage is considered "the only satisfactory solution for sex troubles." "The true purpose of a school is to build character." We seem to have heard of these views before individual psychology was invented, and it is no doubt gratifying to see them restated.

This book is a study of the role of verbal activity in the growth of the structure of the human mind. The author describes himself as an experimental realist and at the end of the book discusses the philosophical implications of the standpoint. The main part of the work is concerned with the tracing of the development of mind from pro-verbal integrations met with in animal behaviour to full logical capacity. In this process the use of words is in the author's opinion essential and he traces the way in which the child acquires words and uses them; also how symbolizations are formed and used as short cuts in thinking; and finally how these are organized into concepts which may be used in rational argument.

A full bibliography is appended and the work is one which is bound to have great interest for educationists and psychologists.

R. G. G.


In the third volume of the series of studies from the author's clinic Professor Guillain presents a selection of his recent contributions to neurology. The work is divided into eight parts under the following headings: (1) cerebral tumours; (2) pathology ofencephalitis; (3) pathology of the crus, pons, medulla and spinal cord; (4) spinal cord diseases; (5) pathology of the cranial nerves and roots; (6) muscular atrophies; (7) miscellaneous articles and (8) history of neurology. In part I three chapters are devoted to cerebral cysticercosis, a condition seldom seen in this country. A subventricular tumour described in the same section as an angioglioma seems from the histological description to belong rather to the hæmangioblastomas.

For the most part the illustrations are excellent and like its predecessors the volume forms a series of clinical lessons which should prove of great value to the neurologist.


This new contribution to the study of hereditary neurosyphilis is based largely on the author's wide clinical experience and consists essentially of descriptions of clinical syndromes of almost bewildering variety. Syphilis is responsible for affections of any cranial nerve and any part of the neuraxis and its coverings.
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