Reviews and Notices of Books


The author, who is Director in Psychological Studies at Cambridge, here aims at helping medical students and practitioners to understand the workings of the human mind. With this end in view, chapters are devoted to mental defect, the problem child, infantile sexuality, troubles of the healthy, effects of ill-health, the invalid, and the unconscious and dissociation. Suggestion and hypnosis are also dealt with. Following brief consideration of the psychoneuroses and of the theories of Freud, Jung, and Adler, methods of treatment are discussed. In this necessarily superficial survey of such a wide subject, Dr. Banister has succeeded in giving his readers good insight into the workings of the mind, both in its healthy and warped aspects. With good reason the psychoses have been left out of account. One point would we question: though hypnotism has been and in selected cases could still be adopted for the elimination of pain in surgical cases and for the facilitation of childbirth, it is hardly true that it is in common use for such purposes as is here stated. Amid the many books dealing with similar themes, this one can be looked upon as a suitable guide.


The author says the first step towards a happy and efficient life must always involve squarely facing one’s own endowment, disposition, and cravings. To this end there must be a rational searching of the self. The motive of these pages is to help the reader ‘to know himself, to tolerate what cannot be changed, and to utilize to the full his personal and unique resources.’ In successive chapters various factors that enter into the development of a healthy personality, human ‘drives,’ possible errant tendencies, are severally dealt with. This endeavour to show how to play the game of life means covering a wide field. The writer is not only intimate with modern psychological knowledge but treats his subject so clearly that the lay reader will find his interest sustained on the many complex problems presented to him. In an appendix a bibliography is given for those who desire further study on these lines. The book can be cordially recommended.
The Single Woman and her Emotional Problems.  By Dr. Laura Hutton.  

This small volume has been written in an endeavour to help the large number of more or less independent single women who earn their own living and whose marriage is perhaps an unlikely contingency.  Not only the not having any adequate natural fulfilment of their normal womanly physiological function but other factors as well may bring about psychological problems which are here discussed simply and understandingly.  The writer deals well with her subject in its various aspects, but some of the psychoanalytic points regarding the sources of homosexuality will only tend to mystify the average reader.  The same may be said about the brief references to alcoholism, drug-addiction, and paranoia.  Apart from these small detractions, the contents should prove useful to those to whom it is addressed.
Reviews and Notices of Books

J Neurol Psychopathol 1936 s1-16: 287-288
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.s1-16.63.287

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/s1-16/63/287.citation

These include:

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/