think it would have been better had the common forms of insanity not been dealt with in such a volume. Their clinical description with details which can mean but little to the laity seems somewhat out of place here, though if touched upon in a broader way some useful purpose might have been served. Where there is such an opportunity of enlightening the public on a subject of such vital importance, it is a pity that Dr. Brill should be so misleading and even inaccurate as to say (page 27) that a neurosis (including a psychoneurosis) is a nervous disease or a nervous disturbance, in contradistinction to a psychosis, which is a mental disorder. Surely a psychoneurosis is just as much mental, and may be more so, and it is essential that such euphemisms as ‘nervous breakdown’ should no longer be used. It is also questionable whether the lay reader should be told (page 49) that a patient who is trying hard to talk but cannot is suffering from mental retardation; and also that “we can tell at once that the patient who suffers of this mental retardation, and has nothing organically wrong with him, will recover”. Experienced psychiatrists know that no such lightning diagnoses and prognoses can be made, and it is a pity that in a popular book such statements should be made, though Dr. Brill probably does not mean what he seems to convey. These criticisms, however, do not detract in any appreciable degree from a book which amply fulfils its purpose, and since it is written by such an authority, it can be cordially recommended to the general reader.

C. Sanford Read.


The third edition of Dr. Studdart’s text-book differed radically from its predecessors in that the author announced therein his acceptance of the theory of psycho-analysis, and boldly endeavoured to incorporate this new point of view with the more conventional treatment of the subject contained in the earlier editions. Dr. Studdart was himself keenly aware of the difficulties of this task, and had hoped in a future edition to make radical changes in the whole scheme of the book. Owing to the speedy demand for a new issue, however, he has not been able to carry out his intention, and the present fourth edition, although it has been revised and contains a certain amount of new matter, is in all essential respects similar to its predecessor.


A previous translation of these lectures was reviewed in Vol. I, No. 3, of this journal. Therein, however, there were many serious errors in translation which greatly militated against its value. Dr. Ernest Jones’ assurance that this present volume is a faithful rendering of the original
text is of course authoritative, so that we have no hesitation in stating that this work constitutes an ideal introduction to the study of psycho-analysis. In the latter part of the contents, more especially in dealing with the problems of narcissism, Freud has expressed some of his more recent ideas, so that those who are to some extent conversant with psycho-analysis will learn much, not only from the wonderful lucidity of the general exposition, but also from the fresh subject matter. The book, therefore, cannot be too highly recommended.

C. Stanford Read.


The authoress deals humanistically with criminal offenders, and from her official experience gives her views on the present prison system. She sees in this system a social curiosity and much retaliation on the part of society which has no deterrent effect, but only conduces to further anti-social conduct through penal discipline. A plea is made for the application of the findings of science in which the criminal shall be dealt with more as an individual and from a more rational standpoint. It is evident that the writer's enthusiasm has been stimulated by modern psychological study, and, in her dissection of the types of offenders she speaks of, the various factors making for maladaptation are pointed out. In the chapter on "Psychical Considerations" she superficially deals with the emotional effects of penal discipline, how phantasy life is enhanced, and the abnormal mental results of a hysterical or psychotic nature which may thereby ensue. In conclusion the bases of reform are sketched out. The book is written rationally, without any sentimental exaggerations, and can be commended as a simple exposition of an important social problem concerning which stimulation to action is certainly needed.

C. Stanford Read.


The third edition of this well-known work, which originally appeared in 1912, has been thoroughly revised. Certain chapters have been amplified by the addition of further illustrative material, and a new chapter has been added entitled "Studies in Paraphrenia". The cases described therein are mild psychotic disturbances which, although by no means typical examples of Kraepelin's dementia praecox or paranoia, are clearly allied thereto. The diagnosis of these conditions from the psychoneuroses is discussed, and its importance emphasized in view of the fact that 'mentally sclerotic' patients of this type cannot be benefited by psycho- analytic treatment.
Reviews and Notices of Books

C. Stanford Read

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