one case the effect was spectacular, but in the large majority of cases any improvement was only temporary. Nevertheless the author is led to believe that gland feeding may be of value in breaking the vicious circle of mental disease, and that thyroid stimulation with psycho-analysis may be an excellent method of attacking incipient schizophrenia. Though psycho-analytic treatment showed no conspicuous results, mainly from the conscious and unconscious resistances met with, which it could not adequately overcome, it is thought that benefit may accrue in certain types. Every case was schizophrenic or had schizophrenic features, with evidence of submyxœdema, hyperthyroidism, or hypoadrenia, and one with dyspituitarism. Two simple schizoid families were both submyxœdemic, while two cases with features of circular insanity had hypoadrenia. The hyperthyroids as a whole seemed more extroverted than the others.

From these findings it is patent that there is nothing epoch-making about this monograph; but the few facts elicited are of interest and value, and should stimulate further research on similar lines. The main content of the book consists of detailed case histories from which the reader may well judge of the mental material here dealt with. Such individual study and treatment is always gratifying to note, and we have nothing but praise for Dr. Fay’s progressive and broad-minded psychiatric attempts.

C. STANFORD READ.


In this very interesting volume, Dr. Sidis records his views, based on a lengthy experience, of the treatment of the psychopathies. Briefly, his thesis is that all psychopathic disturbances are to be ascribed to two factors: an actual emotive experience, or series of such, occurring in the life of the patient, and an innate failure of the total integrative function of the mind, or, physiologically speaking, the nervous system. The actual mechanism involved in the disturbance is a dissociation which leaves a system of ideational emotive complexes free in the subconscious and acting independently of the main mass of the personality, and any treatment, to be successful, must aim at the elucidation of the disturbing complex. So far, these views are not at variance with the generally accepted conception of psychological disturbance as a whole; but the whole subject is treated in a rather arbitrary fashion from this very limited point of view, and one fails to find any reference to other modern conceptions, such as, on the psychological side, to any other mechanism or to personality response, etc., or, on the physiological side, to such factors as the relation of the endocrine system to the mental state.

The first portion of the book is devoted to a detailed description of different states of dissociation or suggestibility, normal and pathological, which the author has determined, and to which he applies such terms as the hypnotic state, the hypnoidal state, hypnolepsy, etc., and he adduces an interesting theory that the hypnotic, the normal sleeping, and the fully
waking state are to be regarded as possessing a common meeting-ground in the hypnooidal state, which is, to all intents, that condition of aquescent relaxation aimed at in the technique of the method of free association. He regards this state as the primitive rest state, and considers that both the hypnotic and the normal sleep states are evolitional developments from it. It is in this state that he investigates his patients, and by means of which he obtains access to the subconscious material.

The second portion is descriptive of the main symptomatology and classification of the various psychopathic disorders, and here, as Dr. Sidis takes little or no account of any other viewpoint but his own, one finds many divergencies from the generally accepted, and one is unfavourably impressed by the omission of much that is certainly known in regard to such matters, for example, as the true significance of a delusional content, or of an hallucinatory phenomenon.

The remainder of the book deals with diagnosis and with what the author terms psychognosis, which is apparently purely an analytical understanding of the case.

Of the three appendices, one gives a scheme for the examination of a patient, and the two others are reprinted critical essays on the author's views and treatment, by Dr. T. W. Mitchell and Dr. T. B. Robertson respectively.

As a record of investigation and practical experience, the book is stimulating and of value; but it is vitiated by a lack of definiteness in the treatment of the subject matter, by an irritating and unnecessary amount of repetition, and by a very persistent and open denunciation of any viewpoint which may be ascribed to the analytical school of thought; in regard to this the introduction constitutes a veritable polemic.

THOMAS BEATON.

The Psychology of the Criminal. By M. HAMBLIN SMITH, M.A., M.D., Medical Officer of H.M. Prison, Birmingham; Lecturer on Criminology in the University of Birmingham, and at Bethlem Royal Hospital. Crown 8vo. Pp. vii + 182. 1922. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd. 6s. net.

The writer is an experienced and enthusiastic criminologist, and through his psycho-analytic studies he has been led to apply Freudian principles to the elucidation of the manifold problems involved in anti-social conduct. This book shows the result of his investigations, and demonstrates an endeavour to stimulate a more scientific viewpoint on the subject. Briefly, theories of crime, criminality, punishment, and the problems of responsibility are sketched out, and psychology is looked to as a science of human conduct to throw light where darkness previously reigned. The various physical factors which may militate against social adaptation are pointed out, and the examination of the offender's conscious mind is dealt with at some length. As is commonly the case, each experienced investigator tends to be dissatisfied with many of the established mental tests, and Dr. Hamblin Smith, after prolonged experimentation, has evolved a scheme of his own which he describes. One-third of the contents is devoted to an