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
exposition of the theory and practice of psycho-analysis as it applies to criminology, and later the various classes of offenders are superficially discussed. Finally, he states the conclusions which must necessarily follow upon his previous arguments, shows where society has gone astray in its dealings with the criminal, and draws attention to the possibilities of the prevention of delinquency and the factors which would aid reformation. The study of the individual offender is the great plea herein, and it is truly seen that society’s reaction to its victims also has much to answer for. That every society has the criminal it deserves, and that crime is a social disease, are scientific and sane conceptions. Though some of the hopes herein expressed may be regarded by many as rather Utopian, it is certain that Dr. Hamblin Smith has given expression to views which will be more and more widely accepted by future generations. He in no way excuses crime, but insists on the application of modern psychological knowledge for the prophylaxis and treatment of criminal delinquency. Nothing but good can accrue from the reading of these pages, where the author’s views are so clearly presented to all classes of intelligent readers.

C. STANFORD READ.


Most books on vice and crime have been written by persons connected with courts and prisons. This volume claims to be the outcome of twenty-five years’ private practice, during which time “a large number of people suffering from character defects leading to moral failings” have come under the author’s observation and treatment. It contains a description of human instincts and an analysis of human motives, but the treatment of these subjects is far too superficial to be of real value.

The author puts much stress upon cranial injuries as causative factors of crime. He lays down a system of cranial topography in connection with crimes of various kinds, and on this subject he makes most sweeping assertions, which equal those made by the more fanatical followers of Lombroso, and would not be accepted to-day by any criminologist of experience.

The book contains a discussion of the problem of ‘criminal responsibility’. The author would appear to be in favour of the ‘self-control’ test. If this were made the official criterion we should have just as many acrimonious disputes as is the case with the present legal dicta. The author’s views upon the absolutely fundamental question of determinism are not clear. Dealing with the subject of ‘moral imbecility’, the author would appear to accept the existence of a ‘moral sense’, as apart from the intellect. We are surprised to learn that he does not admit a particular cerebral location for this supposed sense. He speaks of immorality and crime as “departures from what the universal consent of mankind admits that conduct ought to be”. There is, of course, no such universal consent. The author states that “moral weakmindedness” (we presume he refers to moral imbecility) “is legally recognized up to the age of sixteen under the
The Psychology of the Criminal

C. Stanford Read

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