
Dr. Kretschmer's book represents a serious and scientific attempt to determine the relations, if any, between physique and character. The ground is first of all cleared by a particularly stringent method of investigation, which incorporates the somatic features of face and skull, physique generally, surface of the body (skin, blood vessels, hair), glands, measurements, and includes temporal factors, type of personality, and heredity. Three main types of physique have been elaborated on the basis of records of this kind, viz., the asthenic, the athletic, and the pyknic respectively. It may be explained that by the last of these is signified the type (seen "in its perfection" in middle age) of which the characters are: pronounced development of the body cavities (head, breast, and stomach), tendency to a distribution of fat about the body, a "soft broad face on a short massive neck, sitting between the shoulders." Intermediate varieties and combinations are fully recognized.

Next, on the foundation of adequate clinical material, the pyknic physique is shown to be decidedly predominant among "circulars" (manic-depressive), while the asthenic and the athletic (and certain other varieties, some mixed) are more common among the schizophrenes (dementia praecox). The second part of the book is taken up with an ingenious endeavour to sort human types according to their temperaments or characterology. Taking the two psychotic conditions above mentioned—circular or manic-depressive, and schizophrenic—the author determines their respective temperamental builds. Finding, as he considers, minor degrees of the same temperamental "make-up" in the prepsychotic personalities of the patients themselves, and in their blood-relations, he describes these as "cycloid" and "schizoid" respectively, the terms being indicative of states of personality fluctuating between sickness and health. Finally, a purview of humanity as he sees it round him in the persons of friends and acquaintances and others leads Dr. Kretschmer to describe the occurrence of "cyclothymes" and "schizothymes" among them, normal mentally and physically though they are pronounced to be.

The author's keen observation of human personality impresses the reader; his analysis of various historical characters is clever if perhaps on occasion rather speculative; but whether any rigorous tracing of the
embryonic "circular" and "schizophrenic" in the average man, even so definite as to justify the use of the terms "cyclothyme" or "schizothyme," can be determined, is open to question. Dr. Kretschmer, enthusiastic over his theme, goes further; he imagines provisionally two great chemical hormone groups, one of which corresponds to the cyclothymic type of temperament and the other to the schizothymic. His subject must always be one of intense interest to all who study mankind; whether despots and fanatics are schizothymes, however, and organizers and conciliators cyclothymes, as we are here informed, is as may be. After all, these are glimpses and suppositions, as the author admits; yet the problem presses on indefinitely into the depths of psychology, and this is a meritorious contribution to it.


With the assistance of some fifteen contributors, both lay and professional, Mrs. Chesser has tackled the problem of the nature and nurture of the child in the light of modern acquisitions to psychological knowledge and of modern trends in practical education. By way of a useful corrective to the half-baked idea that progress and modernity are synonymous, or that all knowledge of to-day was denied to our forefathers, Dr. H. C. Cameron provides an interesting and amusing chapter derived from the pages of John Locke, who at the end of the seventeenth century wrote Some Thoughts on Education, and from this book we can learn, as Dr. Cameron says, that the child of the Restoration was in no way different from the modern child, and that his habits, aptitudes, faults and excellences were all clearly comprehended by that old philosopher. Is, then, anything new or novel to be said about the child, any new upbringing to be advocated, any hitherto unrecognised pitfalls to be avoided, any novel scheme of education to be taught?

What is best in this little compendium is old and well-tried, and it is not always set out in the best manner by the professional psychologist. Children were well brought up, well educated, and well fitted for the game of life before modern psychology grew up, and if there were failures and misfits in another generation so are there to-day. The sort of psychology that generations of parents have applied must have been of the right kind, else where should we have been standing now were the fears and apprehensions and prophecies of calamity hinted at by the modern psychologist correct? We regret to observe the hoary fallacy raising its head in these pages, that "the children of the most severely moral parents often turn out the most rebelliously immoral." For parents who have neither insight nor common sense much herein written would prove of great value; our hope is this little volume will reach them. Others who know will subscribe to its general tenor and outlook. It would be invidious to single out individual contributions where all are animated by the desire to recommend what is best for the child, but we confess to a secret delight in those coming from
professional women and mothers; somehow their appeal is immediate, their touch is sure.


To the neurologist seeking the wider outlook, the larger air of the neuro-psychical sphere, nothing is more apt to irritate than a study of the enigmas of psychical and neural interaction which ignores the data of neurophysiology and of neuropathology. Far too many of such studies have emanated from authors who are patently not familiar with the facts of these sciences. They are convicted accordingly of the sin of amateur criticism. It is with peculiar pleasure that we welcome and recommend this "fascinating monograph," as the translators justly call it, from the veteran neuropathologist von Monakow. He, at any rate, has been so steeped in the lore of physiology and pathology that he is incapable of brushing aside the labours of generations of patient objective research. Here there is no inverting of the pyramid, as Hughlings Jackson would have said. On the basis of acquired objective facts Professor von Monakow ventures from the known to the unknown, and the reader will follow him sympathetically in his quest after the material side of the emotional life, of the elementary and the psychical emotions alike. He truly says that what is required to-day is a careful study, from the biological standpoint, of the primitive feelings and instincts, through their further evolution and development, right up to social feelings and morality. His contention is that the analysis of the world of sensation and perception, of feeling and instinct, can lead to no satisfactory goal without knowledge of the morphological basis of it all. When the question is naturally asked, how can a morphological point of view be brought to bear on the phenomena of the ego? the answer is, as daily experience teaches, that "every psychic process . . . presents certainly a physiological effect in the brain, whether we will or not."

So thoughtful and thought-evoking a contribution to a matter of perennial interest is worthy of a much longer review than we have space for, but its appeal is above all to those whose knowledge is erected on the fundamentals of neurology, and they will at once appreciate its grasp, its width, and its mellowness.

S. A. K. W.


This is a book to read and ponder over. Professor Myerson's attitude
Reviews and Notices of Books

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