education, family life, in the pre-school age, the care of the feebleminded and
the training of the social worker. All are written in a clear and informative
style, and if they bring nothing strikingly new to the trained psychiatrist they
cannot fail to be a help and an inspiration to the educated layman interested
in social work. Without in any way offering views which can be regarded as
extreme or 'cranky,' they present what is new in psychological outlook in a
sane and restrained manner, so that the book can be confidently recommended
to the general reader.

R. G. GORDON.

The Personal Equation. By L. Berman. 1925. London: George
Allen & Unwin, Ltd. Pp. 303. Price 8s. 6d.

Given a concept which is part of the truth, and a superficial knowledge of
allied subjects, it is not difficult to present a thesis in semipopular language
which hangs together as a presentation of the whole truth. This Dr. Berman
has done in the present volume, in which he seeks to maintain that all human
personality and behaviour depend exclusively on the chemical balance of the
endocrine glands. He decries psychological investigation, and his neurological
knowledge is evidently not sufficiently profound to make him realize the
difficulties presented by some of his statements from that point of view. His
arguments are chiefly by inference, which he maintains is as valuable in
scientific investigation as study of facts. This will hardly appeal to the
English, who have prided themselves on the building of theories on empirically
observed facts. In brief, his whole theory of facial and other bodily and mental
glandular stigmata is altogether too plausible to be probable.

R. G. GORDON.

Les états parkinsoniens et le syndrome bradykinétique. By Pro-
fessor Henri Verger and Professor René Cruchet, University of

This interesting small volume comprises a series of eleven lectures delivered
at the University of Bordeaux last year by the two professors whose names
appear above, and also by Drs. D. Anglade and A. Hesnard. The subject
dealt with is that of Parkinsonism, as it appears in various nervous diseases,
such as Parkinson's disease itself, epidemic encephalitis, in progressive
cerebral arteriosclerosis, etc. By their definition the authors describe the
bradykinetic syndrome as consisting in "a slowness in initiating and per-
forming voluntary movements, without paralysis in the strict sense, and with
no disorder of coordination." A minute and painstaking clinical investiga-
tion of the syndrome is furnished, and comparisons instituted between its
manifestations in the different diseases above alluded to. The mental state
said to be associated with bradykinesia is discussed, as well as the pathology
of the syndrome and its treatment.

There is not a little in the book that is provocative of thought and
deserving of serious consideration, since in some respects the conclusions
drawn are in contrast with commonly received clinical interpretations. For
instance, the lecturers point out that the syndrome is by no means solely
The Personal Equation

R. G. Gordon

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