interested in the evolution of the human mind. The scope of this work may
be indicated by a summary of its contents. In the first part a survey is given
of the development of the mental hygiene movement in various countries.
The second part is devoted to an account of the various methods of psychological
examination (mental tests, etc.). The principles of mental prophylaxis are
outlined in the third part. In the fourth the various directions in which the
principles of mental hygiene can be applied are indicated: psychic education,
professional orientation and adaptation, and eugenics. The fifth part is con-
cerned with an account of the application of the principles of mental hygiene
to predisposed and abnormal individuals with special reference to the question
of open clinics for early mental cases, backward and abnormal children, drug-
addicts, and delinquents. A full bibliography is appended to each chapter.
The book, which may be recommended to psychiatrists as a useful work of
reference, includes a short introduction by Dr. Toulouse.

H. D.

An Outline of Abnormal Psychology. By James W. Bridges. Third
This book, the first edition of which appeared in 1919, is designed "to serve
as a guide for students of abnormal psychology in the absence of a com-
prehensive textbook." It is essentially a classified list of abnormal phenomena,
and of the chief theories which are held with regard to them. Each chapter
concludes with a bibliography. As a work of reference, and as an indicator
of the directions in which fuller information can be obtained concerning the
various departments of psychopathology, the book should prove of consider-
able value.

The Clinical Examination of the Nervous System. By G. H. Monrad-
The third edition of Dr. Monrad-Krohn's guide to the examination of the
nervous system has been slightly enlarged by the addition of accounts of the
pharmaceutical tests of the vegetative nervous system, the pilomotor and
postural reflexes, the technique of cisterna magna puncture, and the use of
lipiodol injections in conjunction with X-ray examination. The addition of
a number of original illustrations enhances the value of the book, which may
be recommended to the student with the utmost confidence.

Milford, Oxford University Press.) 1926. Pp. 53. Price 4s. 6d. net.
An excellent brief resumé of the history of mental healing. Five general periods
are dealt with—the stages of miracles and mysticism preceding the 18th cen-
tury; the animal magnetism of Mesmer in the 18th century; the beginning
of the scientific method in hypnotism; the clinical period of Charcot and Janet; and, lastly, the analytical schools of Freud and Jung. The subject is simply but very interestingly and instructively presented. It is a pity that such a useful little work addressed to the public should be relatively expensive.

C. S. R.


The veteran Professor Bechterew gives in some four hundred pages a revue d'ensemble of his life-work in respect of human personality. Pointing out in some detail the shortcomings of all subjective methods of approach to personality problems, he emphasises afresh the value of objective methods, and while not here vouchsafing the reader a full description of his technique he elaborates rather the results this has furnished in all levels of neural activity, from the lowest to the highest. For him the psychical processes of the higher animals are brain-processes: all the actions of living beings can be classed as reflexes of offence and defence, consecutive to specific external stimuli and inward ruling conditions. The general thesis is maintained with an extraordinary wealth of illustration, much of which is distinctly impressive. The actual basis of Freudian hypotheses can be set out, according to the author, in terms of reflex action. Incidentally, he refuses to link his work in any way with the behaviour psychology of Watson and others, since its inception dates back to the eighties of last century, and since it is erected on wider conceptions.

Not a little of the interest of the closely reasoned argument resides in its effort to unify neurological and psychological mechanisms. So far from conceding the existence of unbridgeable gaps between the physical and the physiological, and between the latter and the psychological, Professor Bechterew holds the view that "neuropsychical energy" underlies all manifestations, physiological and psychological, and that it itself is but a special form of that physical energy which is all-pervading.

The volume will repay close perusal.


This small volume, which we noted in its first edition, has evidently fulfilled a useful purpose. In this edition there are small and unimportant changes. Mental nurses undoubtedly should have some insight into psychology, but we
Reviews and Notices of Books

C. S. R.

J Neurol Psychopathol 1927 s1-7: 285-286
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.s1-7.27.285

Updated information and services can be found at: http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/s1-7/27/285.citation

Email alerting service

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to: http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to: http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to: http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/