
In this volume the authors aim to apply the principles of modern psychiatry to the problem of the prevention of mental disorder. Many books have been written in regard to the prevention of physical disease, the preservation of the body from wear and tear, and the principles of healthy living, but it is only recently that the medical profession has begun to concern itself with the preservation of the mental health of the community. As the authors observe, it is not that humanity has neglected mental hygiene in past ages, but the development of its principles has until recently been almost exclusively the concern of the philosopher, moralist and teacher, rather than that of the medical profession. The mental health of the people will always be dependent in a measure on those who have the care of the young, but, in view of the considerable incidence of mental disorder in the community, mental hygiene must be as much the concern of the medical profession as physical hygiene. Thus there is room for such a textbook on this subject as the one to which this notice refers, and we have no doubt it will be found most useful by the medical student and practitioner.

H. D.


We have here a frank scientific exposition of all that appertains to woman. The volume is divided into five parts. The first part deals with the physical side of sex and its functions. Herein we get a historical introduction, a description of the anatomy and physiology of generation, the development of the child from birth to the mature woman and old age, including the facts of pregnancy and labour. The second part is devoted to the psychology of woman at the various age periods. In part three, the sexual life of woman is discussed in its varying aspects; and in the fourth, the erotic life is detailed in so far as the different sensory stimuli are concerned. The final pages deal with marriage, while an appendix gives us interesting data on prostitution.

Undoubtedly the scientific facts of sex presented in such a form should be welcome, for we realise to what extent ignorance is provocative of difficulties in sexual adaptation and those mental disharmonies we term ‘neuroses.’ The author, however, when he treats of the more important part of his subject in the second part, fails in our opinion greatly in his task. In a dogmatic way he is descriptive but nowhere does he attempt to give us any insight into the deeper trends of woman’s psychology. There seems to be a definite bias in particular directions. As the editor himself points out, ‘no proper grasp of the subject can be obtained without acquaintance with the teachings of psychoanalysis,’ and these evidently Dr. Bauer has entirely neglected. Freud is
L'Hygiène Mentale et Nerveuse Individuelle

H. D.

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