useful and practical purpose has been served by this presentment of current knowledge, gleaned from a wide literature and rendered the more valuable by the authors' criticisms and personal conclusions. S. A. K. W.

De l'Angoisse à l'Extase; Études sur les Croyances et les Sentiments.

By Dr. Pierre Janet, Professor of Psychology at the Collège de France.


All those who are admirers of the clinical and analytical genius of Professor Janet will enjoy his latest volume, which in its format is identical with his classical Névroses et Idées Fixes of a quarter of a century ago. Taking as his basis the mysticism and ecstasy of the patient known as Madeleine (whose case is described at length in a preceding volume of which we have received no copy for review), the veteran psychologist enters on a long and minute examination of the influence of a profound sense of joy ("ce bonheur perpétuel et quelquefois sublime") in modifying thought and intellectual processes. By natural stages the reader is taken to a discussion of the sentiments and to an examination of those common clinical cases in which alternations of affect predominate, to manic-depressive psychosis and other forms. The four elementary sentiments of effort, fatigue, sadness and happiness are subjected to a similar minute investigation. A third section is devoted to the interrelation and organisation of emotions, beatitudes, and sentiments.

It is perhaps a little remarkable that comparatively slight attention is directed to the religious sentiment, especially since the clinical material of mysticism and ecstasy exhibits frequently a definite religious aspect, but Professor Janet takes the line that religion influences only external forms; in the case of Madeleine the religious setting is at once apparent, yet similar psychopathological phenomena occur independently of any religious background. The beatitudes of morphia-taking are analogous clinical data but have nothing to do with that particular sentiment. "No confessor, no convent directrix, is responsible for diseased conditions which can appear in exactly the same guise in individuals who profess no religion at all."

As with all of Professor Janet's work, it is lucidly and charmingly written, and is well documented. Of references to Freud's psychological work there are comparatively few; the author justly criticises the limitations and systematisations of the latter's view of angoisse and by a few well-chosen clinical instances underlines its essential incompleteness. A good index adds to the usefulness of the volume.


Dr. Campbell Garnett's book adapts and modifies McDougall's views on instinct, but is disappointingly reticent and vague, as all academic studies of the subject tend to be, on 'personality.' The author takes a monistic view of mind-body relationship, and robs the instincts of any
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