BOOK REVIEWS

CONCEPTS AND PROBLEMS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY

L. E. Hinsie

(William Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd., London. 1938. 15s.)

The author gives a clear outline of the principles of psychotherapy as practised by the schools of Freud, A. Meyer, Jung, and Adler. As is to be expected from the comparatively small volume, the work gives an introduction and stimulates the student to further studies; the author does not pretend to present a complete textbook. Although he emphasizes that "it would not seem desirable at this time to express any final judgment with respect to any single school," his preference for the Freudian school of thought is obvious. He states that Adler's and Jung's "present position is in the periphery of psychiatric practice." Hence the chapter dealing with Adler and Jung occupies a tenth of the space occupied by those dealing with Freud and A. Meyer. In spite of this inequality the book may prove very useful for the student, and for those practitioners who need a primary introduction. In an appendix C. A. Landis gives a statistical analysis of therapeutic results obtained by psycho-analytical methods as published by various big hospitals; he uses all the critical judgment necessary for such a purpose. The make-up of the book would improve considerably if the only picture (popular representation of various "streams" of the human psyche in the form of a landscape) were omitted.

THE HYPOTHALAMUS

W. E. Le Gros Clark, J. Beattie, G. Riddoch, and N. M. Dott

(Oliver and Boyd, Ltd., Edinburgh. 1938. 12s. 6d.)

In a book which is a record of four lectures given by four different individuals there is an excellent opportunity for the expression of a variety of opinions, and these are to be found herein. The first lecture, dealing with the structure of the hypothalamus, comprises a wide survey of this aspect of the study of the hypothalamus, and students will find much of interest. To collect in one lecture the knowledge of the function of this region of the brain is a task fraught with difficulty, and it is accordingly to be expected that some of the views expressed may meet with criticism. The clinician will turn to the next lecture with interest: again it is to be remembered that time allotted to one lecture permits only of a rapid review of the literature on clinical neurology. This lecture might have been made more interesting by the inclusion of "clinical" photographs such as appear in the lecture dealing with the surgical aspects. In the latter lecture the wealth of illustrations is unusual, the constant repetition of series of diagrams illustrative of operative technique becomes tiresome and appears unnecessary, while those pages in this section devoted to hypothalamic derangement are in the main a repetition of the lecture devoted to the clinical aspects. Should the book enter another edition, it is to be hoped that the display of unnecessary illustrations,
and especially those that are repetitive, will be avoided. More careful editing to exclude errors in references and a standard method of references would do much to alleviate the annoyance to the reader interested in this part of the nervous system who may wish to use the book.

A TEXTBOOK OF NEURORADIOLOGY

C. P. G. Wakeley and A. Orley

(Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. 1938. 25s.)

It is some years since there has appeared any publication by English authors which has dealt at all comprehensively with the radiology of the central nervous system. This book is a much-needed addition to the literature on the subject. As the literature available in other languages is extraordinarily wide in extent, an admirable bibliography is appended to the book. It could be wished that the book itself had been somewhat expanded correspondingly. The reproductions of X-ray films, though good, might have been more numerous and used to a larger extent to illustrate the text. Too little technical detail is perhaps included for the radiologist, and insufficient illustration of the normal and its variations for the neurologist. The section on ventriculography is comprehensive and extremely clear. The earlier chapters might well have been treated in similar detail and further illustrated. This book will be found useful by neurologists.

THE PHARMACOLOGICAL SHOCK TREATMENT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

M. Sakel


This book, originally written in German, now appears in English. Sakel's method of insulin treatment, his results, and his theoretical conceptions are so well known and have been the subject of so many recent discussions that it would be redundant to give an account of the contents of this monograph.

Foster-Kennedy in his preface considers Sakel's ideas underlying the treatment to be "the most important step made in psychiatric knowledge since we discovered the organic background of general paresis." Whether this is true or not only the future can tell. Nobody can deny, however, that the introduction of insulin treatment has opened new avenues of biochemical research in psychiatry of a most promising nature.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES OF COLOUR AND NON-COLOUR ATTITUDE IN SCHOOL CHILDREN AND ADULTS. Especially with Regard to its Condition in Different Types according to the Individual Psychology of Sjöbring and the Anthropometric Index of Strömgren

B. J. Lindberg

(Acta Psychiatrica et Neurologica, Supplementum XVI. Copenhagen. 1938.)

The author designed two tests for denoting a person's tendency to direct his attention primarily to the coloured or non-coloured elements of drawings. He
examined over 2,000 school children, over 200 patients of a surgical department of a general hospital, and over 400 psychiatric patients. Age, sex, intelligence, "liveliness" of the normals showed interesting correlations to the "attitude." In the psychiatric material, Lindberg confirmed the grouping of personalities according to the diagnostic system of his teacher, H. Sjöbring, by the results of his testing. Similarly, relations to certain bodily types were established.

PSYCHISCHE INSUFFIZIENZZUSTÄNDE BEI OLGOPHRENIEN LEICHERER GRADES. EINE PERSONLICHKEITSANALYTISCHE UNTERSUCHUNG

E. Goldkuhl

(Acta Psychiatrica, Supplementum XV. Copenhagen. 1938.)

This monograph contains (1) a clinical description of psychoses in high-grade defectives, based upon 220 observations in the Psychiatric Clinic in Lund as well as on the literature of the subject, and (2) a psychological analysis of the patients' personalities intended to furnish a natural classification of the cases. The description both of the psychoses and of the character of the defectives is careful and detailed, and gives a very good picture of the variety of the personalities, a point which has been somewhat neglected until lately. For the purpose of classification the author uses Sjöbring's "fundamental factors of personality"; the reader will find the analyses excellent once he has grown used to Sjöbring's peculiar terminology and understands that "sub-capacity" = mental defect, "sub-validity" = asthenic, "sub-solidity" = hysterical, and "sub-stability" = manic-depressive constitution respectively.

THE CLINICAL EXAMINATION OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

G. H. Monrad-Krohn

(Seventh Edition. H. K. Lewis & Co., London. 1938. 8s. 6d.)

We welcome the seventh edition of this well-known and deservedly popular handbook. It has much increased in size since the early editions, and now contains a short chapter on ventriculography and encephalography, accompanied by numerous and beautiful reproductions of normal and abnormal skiagrams. We would prefer the student to have the smaller edition, omitting such highly technical procedures, fearing that he may be unwilling to read so much and be unable to carry the present volume in his pocket. The cost has been kept remarkably low, especially considering the number of photographic plates and their general excellence throughout the book.