A short bibliography is given at the end of the book.

Dr. Brown has undoubtedly written a clear and attractive volume which compares favourably with many that have appeared lately on the same subject; but the very multiplicity of these works implies how important is the personal factor of the physician in psychotherapy, for one achieves success by one method and another by another, and there is no psychological equivalent of the universal sterilizer dreamt of by the old physicians.

With regard to the scientific psychological aspect of the book, it is doubtful if the animistic attitude and dynamic theory of emotion are really as helpful as they at first appear. They certainly lead to the most wonderfully confused thinking on the part of some workers in the field of psychotherapy. As Lloyd Morgan puts it, physical science has just learnt not to mix up God with its chemical formulæ, and it is time psychology learnt the same lesson. There almost certainly is an *Elan Vital*, *Libido*, *God*, call it what you will, who is the author and director of the universe; but with this psychology has nothing to do; her part is to elucidate the laws of nature in the psychic plane as physics elucidates the laws of nature in the physical plane.

R. G. GORDON.

The Basis of Psychiatry (Psychobiological Medicine). By ALBERT C. BUCKLEY, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Pp. xii+447. With 79 illustrations. 1920. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 30s. net.

THE emphasis given to biological conceptions in this volume differentiates it from the ordinary text-book of insanity. Dr. Buckley indicates his psychiatric outlook in the preface, where he writes: "We have come to consider the group of mental disorders which belong to the class of recoverable psychoses not primarily as mental diseases, but as reflections of some bodily disorder, which, through its effect upon the organ of adjustment—the nervous mechanism and its lower and higher (psychic) reflexes—prevents the patient from making appropriate adaptations to environmental conditions, and therefore constitutes a thoroughly biological problem."

In Part I, which is devoted to general considerations, the author discusses the fundamental vital characteristics included under the term 'reaction': the development of the nervous system; heredity; cerebral development and receptive apparatus; mental development; psychological processes; etiologic factors in mental disorder; classification; symptomatology; and methods of examination.

Part II is concerned with the descriptions of the various forms of mental disorder. A good account is given of the psychoses, though the absence of clinical descriptions of actual cases makes it somewhat difficult reading for the student.

For such a large text-book it is to be regretted that the author has

designedly omitted any reference to the congenital group of cases and the tests which are now employed to estimate the degrees of mental defect. Such omissions would seem to be scarcely justified in a book which might be expected to give a thoroughly comprehensive account of mental disorder.

Throughout his book the author stresses the physical aspect of mental disorder, and in general he follows the teaching of Tanzi, Bianchi, Régis, Kraepelin, and Janet. He has a thorough acquaintance with the work of English psychiatrists, and makes frequent reference to the work of Bolton, Mott, and other writers in this country. He devotes but little attention to the views of the psychogenetic school, which, in general, has exercised a particularly strong influence on American psychiatry. Apart from the omissions to which reference has been made, the book may be recommended as a sound text-book of psychiatry, containing in its preliminary chapters biological details which are not usually included in works of this kind.

H. DEVINE.

The Psychology of Phantasy. By CONSTANCE E. LONG. Demy 8vo. Pp. xviii + 216. 1920: Baillière, Tindall & Cox 10s. 6d. net.

IN medical psychological circles the complaint is often made that the technique of Jung has not been clearly formulated. Dr. Long's description of her practical handling of the unconscious material in the numerous cases from which she quotes should go far to remove criticism on this score. Both Jung's conception of the unconscious and his technique will be found to be implicit in her examples of dream interpretation. There is no attempt at a systematic formulation of either, because the nature of the book does not allow of it. It is a collection of papers delivered from time to time to various societies.

In describing her cases Dr. Long shows a rare and keen insight into the subtleties and diversities of human conduct. In apprehending the subtleties she does not lose sight of the prime cause of psychological sickness, which she finds in undue persistence of instinctive trends of thought and conduct that prevent adaptation to the world of everyday reality. In so far as these have a concrete sexual content she realizes the value of Freud's reductive method of interpretation in bringing them to the light of consciousness. She whole-heartedly acclaims the value of his work, but experience has made her realize its limitations. She considers that the reductive method is only useful up to a certain stage in analysis, and that pushed beyond that stage its uncompromising use does violence to psychological data in the light of the researches in mythology of Jung and others, and fails as a therapeutic measure.

Following Jung, she employs, in addition to the reductive method, the constructive method of handling dreams. She shows that in addition to expressing an unfulfilled wish the dream has the function of presenting the psychological situation from the unconscious standpoint. This view is compensatory to, or corrective of, the conscious view. Therefore, when