formed the expectation, still less expressed the earnest hope, that her book will enable young girls to analyze themselves.

These faults apart, however, the pages contain a good deal of reliable information which should be common knowledge in every household and school, and the author's presentation of it has a value in so far as it may bring helpful truths before those many readers who like facts and sentiment mixed. This is all to the good. Nevertheless, we would submit the following two considerations. When it is a matter of 'understanding' anything about ourselves, adolescents and children alike learn more, and with greater advantage, when the plain facts are put straightforwardly before them. Second, just as no physiologist would think of ornamenting his description of a physiological process with rhapsodical embellishments, so the psychologist must be content to accept a no less prosaic standard in his own books. To do otherwise is to confound science with sentiment, and to muddle the understanding by emotional obscurities. Dr. Blanchard has intelligence, and she is obviously moved by a warm sympathy for young girls; this should enable her in a future book to be of greater practical use to those whom she wishes to serve and who sorely need the instruction which she might give.

D. F.

Hints to Probationer Nurses in Mental Hospitals: with a Brief Introduction to Psychology. By RICHARD EAGER, O.B.E., M.D. (Aberd.), Medical Superintendent, Devon Mental Hospital. Demy 16mo. Pp. 80. 1922. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. 1s. 6d. net.

THIS small volume is intended as a help to those starting attendant duties in mental wards who have had no previous training in such work and who await systematic lectures. Useful general rules are laid down, ward duties are very briefly sketched out, and needful action in emergencies dealt with. The latter half is devoted to an endeavour to give the probationer some idea of normal and abnormal psychology in outline. Thus consciousness, the unconscious, perception, association, instincts, emotion, volition, illusions, hallucinations, 'conflict' and 'complex', rationalization, repression, projection, dissociation, delusions, dreams, and symbolism are dealt with in turn.

Though we consider it a very laudable attempt on the part of Dr. Eager thus to train probationers and give them some insight into psychological conceptions, it is more than doubtful if even a few of such readers would be able to gain any useful grasp of the subject even in a most elementary way from the perusal of his book. Psychology presents unusual difficulties in this respect to those who have not had an adequate education, and especially is this so in reference to such conceptions as complex, rationalization, dissociation, and symbolism. The more intelligent mental hospital attendant will at any rate be stimulated hereby to take an added interest in those under his care, and may by subsequent lectures gain a really useful though slight understanding of the mental mechanisms underlying the symptoms he observes. With the above reservations, only good can accrue from the circulation of these 'hints', which doubtless will be favourably received in mental institutions.

C. STANFORD READ.