their motivations, are discussed, and their co-operation and conflicts dealt with. These chapters constitute MacCurdy's constructive formulations as opposed to the destructive criticism in the earlier portion of the volume. Much of this later material appeared in the report of a symposium of the American Psychopathological Association, which was published in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* (vol. xvi, No. 4, October, 1921).

Though there is a great deal in the contents of this book which Freidians will vehemently dissent from, in that evidently there has been some misapprehension of the pioneer's real meaning, the fact that a psychiatrist of repute has frankly demonstrated what to him appear as ambiguities and difficulties in accepting Freud's views can only be helpful to those who are themselves struggling for a clearer conception of psychoanalytic doctrines, and who perhaps are less able to sum up their own scientific uncertainties. As such theories extend and are modified, they undoubtedly become more and more difficult for the average mind to grasp, as so much of the abstract always must be. The later constructive chapters make easier reading, and will be found stimulating to all psychopathologists. To discuss here the various points raised is not feasible, and we have contented ourselves with only mentioning the important ones. It is patent how much these pages are the product of reflective thought, and few readers will not be the wiser for a careful consideration of them.

C. S. R.

A Psychological Retrospect of the Great War. By W. N. MAXWELL.
With a Foreword by Professor JOHN LAIRD. Pp. 191. 1923. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net.

*In these pages an attempt has been made to give "an answer to the questions which many men have asked themselves regarding their reactions to the environment of war" and "to show the late war as a great educational experience, the results of which are still being felt." The writer was a chaplain at the front who was not only in close touch with the manifestation of the various emotional forces engendered by the war environment and circumstances, but who made excellent use of his opportunities for observation. He opens well with a discussion of the fundamental conceptions of psychology, in which he takes up a dynamic and behaviouristic attitude, recognizing behind consciousness great instinctive tendencies and unconscious processes which furnish the motives for most, if not all, human conduct. Though in the main he is a follower of McDougall, whom he frequently quotes, he goes further, and sees behind instinct a primal *élan vital* as a basic urge, and also differs to some extent from that psychologist's views on the 'group mind.' In subsequent chapters he deals at some length with the war impulse, danger instincts at the front, sentiment at the front, courage, the unconscious mind, and the influence of group life upon the individual in the army. He concludes that "the quality of the education supplied by the war—whether it was beneficial or the reverse—will depend both upon the nature of the dispositions aroused and, more especially, upon the degree to which they were organized within the mind." It is at once evident that the author has excellent psychological insight, that he has read widely, and moreover has added original*
thought and critique of no mean order. The volume is interestingly and lucidly compiled, and it is certain that not only will the intellectual laity find much therein that is instructive, but that psychologists themselves will read it with advantage.

C. Stanford Read.


We can hardly agree that this volume supplies a long-felt want, or that its perusal will in any way enable the reader to follow and understand the recent developments of psychoanalysis, though such statements herald its publication. The main bulk of the contents is devoted to a description of the history, theory and practice of suggestion and hypnosis, but nothing original is given us. For the explanation of hypnotic phenomena we have to be content with an old physiological theory akin to that put forward by Heidenhain in 1880; no modern views on suggestion are found, and we are asked to accept the statement that "by continual repetition all the functions of the brain are reduced to automatism" as the key to its understanding. Chapters follow upon mass suggestion, psychical epidemics, and the applications of suggestion to monarchy, militarism and war. The writer sees in suggestion an influence which has been the basis of all that is harmful in civilization, and makes deductions which are far from scientific. For some unknown reason a glossary is appended mainly composed of psychoanalytic terms, concerning which nothing is found in the book. Any one desirous of gaining knowledge about hypnotism and suggestion would do well to seek the aid of more authoritative sources.

C. S. R.


This small volume is evidently intended for the reader who has previously interested himself in the author's late works on cognate subjects, and must be regarded as an attempt to apply his views towards a general adaptation to life. The exposition is more popular than scientific. Seven chapters deal with such themes as: thought as an agent; the physical bases; personality and free development; the inner life and individualism; concentration; emotional forces; effort and courage; personal ascendency. It need hardly be said that autosuggestion is looked upon as an important dynamic force, and much credit placed at the door of the so-called 'New Nancy School.' The style is diffuse and by no means lucid, and though the book may be appreciated by some who are content with a loose presentation of the subject, to the earnest student of psychology its pages will in no way appeal. A short bibliography is appended.

C. S. R.


Many of us doubtless would greatly differ in our opinion as to what 'the