people’ should know about the mind, but it certainly would be conceded that in any such popular lectures a pragmatic point of view should be adopted, though much that is theoretical may stimulate reflective thought and thus ultimately be beneficial. It seems that this volume largely lacks that practical aspect which would materially aid the unversed reader. Dr. Bernard Hart, in discussing the primitive instincts in the human mind, does, however, simply but interestingly give a useful insight into the everyday motivating factors of instinctive, emotional and reasoning conduct which will be essentially useful in its applications. Dr. Cole deals more or less purely with physiology, and states that stress must be laid on this aspect of psychology because there is a tendency for the public to dwell unduly on occult phenomena. Much which would be of great interest for instruction is neglected for the details of nerve-paths. The same criticism applies to Dr. Rows’ lecture on ‘association of ideas, memory and recognition.’ Dr. Macnamara on ‘habit and adaptation’ keeps to well-worn paths, and so does Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones on ‘fatigue and sleep.’ Neither writer touches any helpful modern ideas, but the latter startles us with a story of a boy who died on the fourth day after experimentally keeping himself awake! ‘Mind and body’ is dealt with by Sir Frederick Mott, and lectures of special value on ‘crime and delinquency’ and ‘mental deficiency,’ by Dr. Potts and Dr. Tredgold respectively, conclude the volume. With certain exceptions, we feel that much has been said about the mind which was of little value, and much that might and should have been said is wanting. Education in such matters is sadly needed, but it must be on more useful and practical lines.

C. S. R.


We do not know to what extent the author identifies himself with the publisher’s descriptive notice of the volume on the book-cover, but great exception must be taken to statements made thereon, more especially that “the book is designed for the busy practitioner and the sufferer from ‘nerves,’” which is confirmed in the translator’s preface. In order to reap any advantage from the perusal of these pages the busy practitioner would require to have considerable previous knowledge of the theory and practice of psychotherapy, and that nervous sufferers should seek for help herein is advice which can only be productive of harm. The writer himself tilts against the desirability of neurotics reading books on the subject, and baldly states that “there is altogether much too much irresponsible talk about psychoanalysis carried on in public and in the press.” We heartily agree with him, and cannot help but feel that in this volume he has been somewhat guilty of it himself. We already have too much literature of a certain type, and though nothing but praise can be given to some of Dr. Stekel’s popular essays upon psychoanalytic themes, we feel he has prostituted his acknowledged high reputation
in putting forward this book. The contents are divided into three parts: the first is devoted to the technique and applications of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy; the second to the final results of psychoanalytic treatment, and the third to psychoanalysis, its limits, dangers and excesses. The author’s style is, as usual, attractive, and his confident and dogmatic assertions are alluring, though not a few statements are made which are obviously fallacious. Bearing in mind to whom this book is recommended, we cannot pass by such assertions as: “Excellent results are achieved in cases of psychic impotence, when verbal suggestion is often all that is necessary”; “Stuttering is curable in a short time”; “Startling results are also achieved in the treatment of epilepsy” (all on page 41); “Homosexuality is curable through psychoanalysis” (page 43); “Paranoia, during its earliest phase, may occasionally, though not always, be corrected”; and with regard to the psychoanalytic treatment of dementia praecox “an attempt may be made” (page 45). All of these statements are misleading, mainly incorrect, and dangerous reading for the busy practitioner. Many points in the author’s dream interpretations will startle his unversed reader, especially when he is asked to accept point blank certain homosexual symbols (burning point = anus, page 58). Much in the book is suggestive and of value, though the egotistic attitude taken up throughout becomes at times a little repellent, especially when Freud is seemingly belittled. Because of the excellent work which Dr. Steckel has done in the past we wish he had not penned these pages. His enthusiasm is appreciated by psychopathologists, but his literary profusion may, we fear, defeat its object.

C. S. R.


This volume embodies the opinions and conclusions which the writer has come to from his extended practical work as a psychiatrist at St. Elizabeth Hospital, in Washington, which has a criminal department for prisoners suffering from mental disease. Dr. White feels that the psychiatrist has the sort of experience in dealing with the practical social problems of human behaviour that entitles him to speak with some authority, and that the time has arrived for the law to take some cognizance of what has been accomplished in the building up of the modern concept of mental disease. In order that the main subject-matter, as indicated in the title, may be adequately understood, the author extends his discussion considerably beyond this limit. He deals from the psychological standpoint with such themes as crime, the criminal, expert testimony, prejudice, responsibility, punishment, and we have as well chapters upon the principles of criminology, the function of the criminal law, the nature of the law, the functions of the medical expert, the tests of insanity, and legal suggestions for betterment.

It is shown how the law to-day only represents the vengeance of the individual taken over by society, that in many ways the criminal psychologically is a scapegoat for our own unconscious impulses, that criminology must be studied in the light of an individual-society relationship, and that the growing tendency to study the individual offender and not the crime