the small-cell systems of the putamen-caudate. The varieties of ‘pulsion’ he attributes to lesions of the cerebellum. A connexion between the ‘vegetative’ alterations mentioned above and any special part of the clinical picture is not made out.

Other large sections of the book are concerned with the chemicophysical basis of muscle tonus, with the synthesis of movement and with its analysis, and with the central representation of the sympathetic nervous system—somewhat of a medley, it may be thought, yet not without bearing on the central topic. Interesting if dubious speculations relate to the association of the extrapyramidal system with instinctive actions and to the development of paralysis agitans as a sequel to ductless gland and liver alterations.

All who are concerned with the study of the manifold problems presented by normal and abnormal movement should familiarise themselves with the contents of Professor Lewy’s monograph.

S. A. K. W.


These books are alike in that they claim to embody a dispassionate and unbiased examination of the doctrines of psychoanalysis, and in their whole-hearted condemnation of those doctrines as scientifically unsound.

Dr. McBride’s work is the less ambitious of the two in its size and scope. After a preliminary description of the Freudian theories, a chapter on ‘The Physical Basis of Mind’ sets out the physiological conceptions which the author regards as the only satisfactory foundation for psychology, and the psychoanalytical doctrines are then subjected to criticism mainly from this viewpoint. The whole book is, indeed, rather the expression of a faith in the physiological approach for psychology than a substantial criticism of psychoanalysis. Such psychological concepts as the ‘Unconscious’ and the ‘Dynamic Psycho’ are dismissed as absurdities on grounds which are without force unless the principle is accepted that psychological concepts are not permissible in science, a principle which, as Höfdding long ago remarked proposes to abolish psychology in order to make it into a science. To the psychologist who is not prepared to agree to this principle, Dr. McBride’s attack on the fundamental concepts of psychoanalysis will be neither convincing nor relevant. The weak points of the psychoanalytical position are the scientifically inadequate character of the evidence upon which the various doctrines have been built, the doubtful validity of the method of psychoanalysis as a means of eliciting ‘facts,’ and the impossibility of eliminating suggestion and other distracting factors in the discovery and reporting of these ‘facts.’ Some of Dr. McBride’s criticisms are directed to these points, but they are not sufficiently detailed or systematic to be very convincing.

Dr. Wohlgemuth’s work is disappointing. Its author is a man of acknow-
ledged standing and achievement in the psychological world, and we are entitled to expect from him a cool and balanced criticism of a subject which has generally failed to obtain from its critics anything but vituperation or slavish acceptance. Dr. Wohlgemuth has, however, adopted the principle that 'Ce n'est que le ridicule qui tue,' forgetting that ridicule is equally capable of killing the good and the bad. The book is written with a mixture of vigour and facetiousness which is decidedly out of place in a scientific review, and makes it impossible for facts and arguments to be set forth in a way which will satisfy the inquirer. This is the more exasperating in that Dr. Wohlgemuth has unquestionably produced some criticisms of weight, which the psychoanalyst should reasonably be called upon to answer, if only they could be extracted from their incongruous surroundings. The book will convince those who are already convinced opponents of psychoanalysis; it will be neglected as obviously biassed and inadequate by the psychoanalysts, and those who are patiently awaiting a really critical review of the Freudian theories must continue to wait.


A study of creative art in the insane. It commences with a discussion of the psychological and biological factors underlying creative art and the creative impulse. Manifestations of this impulse in the insane are then considered, the sketches and paintings of a number of patients, chiefly cases of dementia praecox, being described, together with the life histories of the artists. Finally, an endeavour is made to determine the psychological factors involved in the various cases, and their relationship to the manifestations of art in children and primitive races.

A second edition of the book has already appeared. It is exceedingly well illustrated by coloured and other plates, and is a painstaking and well-written contribution to our knowledge.


This is a book with a message. Loosely written, full of redundancies, shifting from solid philosophy to flimsy speculation, it still carries a message good for many of us to heed. The author believes the doctor has a contribution to make to sociology, because physicians are frequently faced with the problem of 'dissociation,' and know what a devastating effect this lack of solidarity has on the individual, on the home, and (with a wider vision) on the community.

In Chapter II. he paints us a rather terrifying picture of the Victorian and pre-war periods. Fundamentally he is right in his exposition of the mentally unhygienic aspects of industrialism, and one can follow his explanation of how making a man a cog in a machine takes the satisfaction out of work, even out of life, and thus brings about functional nervous disorders;
one can even go so far as to accept his dictum that "a bad player is capable of gradually ruining a good instrument," i.e., that chronic functional disease may lead to structural changes in the organism. But the author goes farther, and indicates that the disharmony of home life, the disorganization of political life, and overspecialization in medicine, are symptoms of a lack of cohesion which may explain the increase of cancer! Such statements, even though speculative, can only weaken his case in the eyes of critical readers, and are all too likely to be misinterpreted by non-medical readers, and to make fine food for the faddist and the members of healing cults.

In his last chapter, the author gives us an illuminating answer to the question, "What, then, is to be done?" We are all, he says, suffering more or less from 'dissociation.' This is the result less of our present circumstances than of our past education. Education has been taking us away from life. Industrialism has robbed us of the satisfaction of work. Departmentalism in government, like specialization in medicine, has narrowed our outlook. In every way we are become cogs in a machine—mere parts, dissociated and predisposed to neurasthenia or worse. And the cure is to reintegrate. The medical profession must realize that in ordinary medical psychology no elaborate technique is really required. The primary desiderata are sympathy, and a first-hand experience of men. Given these, the doctor's task is to examine the patient, to relate him to his particular environment, to help him to understand it, and to inspire him with the moral energy to face and appropriate it. This naturally should be done by the general practitioner; but until he can free himself from State dictation and regain that central humanitarian sense which is his raison d'être, this function may be taken over by the psychotherapist. Psychology is simply one half of the supreme science of psychosociology. Thus there must be the closest cooperation between the psychotherapist and the educationist, that is, between the exponents of cure and prevention.

In short, the author shows us that any attempt to base the neuroses upon a single impulse is forshunned to failure, that we must consider racio-sociological factors, and, in the prophylaxis of psychological disorders, co-operate with educators to give the next generation the fuller life that we need—'life more abundant.'

STANLEY COBB.


Herein are combined in one volume the author's previous contributions—"Introduction to the study of mental diseases," and "Notes on mental diseases." Some additional material has been furnished to the subject of mental hygiene, social psychiatry, the mental factor in industry and vocational guidance. A new chapter has been added setting forth the relationship of certain of the endocrine glands to disorders of the nervous system. Though the writer draws attention to the fact that the relation of psychology to medicine is not thoroughly appreciated, it seems that he himself is, from this