REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS

(v. this JOURNAL, iii, 179), and on the diagnosis and treatment of early and asymptomatic neurosyphilis. (7) Hoffmann and Lyons examination of the cerebrospinal fluid for arsenic after spinal drainage and intravenous hypertonic saline injections. (8) Reports on the results of treatment by flumerin and tryparsamide.

A list is appended of fifty-five papers, to which reference has been made in the text.

J. G. GREENFIELD.


For the specialist this monograph provides a detailed survey and analysis of the various theories that have been held at one time or another in regard to colour vision, preceded by an examination of the chief facts of normal colour vision and of colour blindness. A difficult subject is handled with lucidity and in a logical and consecutive fashion. The author marshals the data obtained from a wide and scattered literature so magistrally as to impress the reader with his erudition, and if he does not give much indication to which of the various more or less conflicting theories he himself inclines, at least he provides all the material for a judgment. The monograph is written from an unbiased standpoint and must take its place as an authoritative and peculiarly complete contribution to a long- vexed question.


This volume is intended to give a systematic and comprehensive outline of the field of psychiatry and as a reference book for the student and practitioner. We cannot see that there is any feature in it which renders the book especially worthy of recommendation. The diagnostic groupings of psychotic symptoms are doubtless useful, yet this tends to give the student too much the idea that mental diseases are cut-and-dried entities. Detailed criticism is unnecessary, but we regret that the out-of-date conception of a special ' puerperal insanity ' is still employed. We must note, too, the remarkable statement that "briefly, psychotherapy may be defined as the deliberate use of the power of benevolent suggestion in the treatment of disease" (page 311). A useful bibliography is added.

C. S. R.


This little book is now in its fourth edition, indicative of a growing apprecia-
tation. Its main thesis is that the aims and methods of much that goes by the name of education are self-defeating, in the sense of obscuring ideals by developing competition, rivalry, and a feeling of superiority-inferiority. Mr. Fox Pitt handles his theme in well-chosen language, behind which lies clearly envisaged the love of knowledge for its own sake, which has been the subject of many eloquent essays in various ages. The purpose of education is that we should learn how to become truly happy; this is no facile acquisition, still less is it a 'right,' as if we all had an inherent 'right to be happy'; it is our duty, however, in response to the authority within each of us, to prosecute studies that lead to that desirable end. How to do so is brilliantly set forth in the pages of this book.


Some may suppose the distinguished Professor of the Collège de France is approaching the veteran stage, for his first contributions to psychology and psychotherapy date back to the 'eighties of last century, but in his latest volume we are as conscious as ever of the pellucid thought and charming style that have characterized all his works. No one approaching the study of psychotherapy with an absence of preconceived ideas can fail to benefit by a perusal of what may be called a revue d'ensemble of the psychotherapeutic question. Professor Janet's attitude, as expressed in these pages, is rather that of the eclectic; he sees the good points of various systems no less than the points at which they lay themselves open to objection. The methods of "New Thought," of Christian Science, and of other frankly religious movements, of "work cure," of the "morale" system associated with the names of Dubois and Dejerine, and of others still that are less well known, if no less efficacious on occasion, are all passed in review and made to run the gauntlet of a sympathetic and disarming criticism. Professor Janet's own tendencies in this respect seem to run at present somewhat in the direction of a hypnotismus redicivus, or rather, of a resort to suggestion and an appeal to "automatic habits" whatever the exact technique utilized. After all, hypnotism and suggestion have been the first precise psychological treatments, and Professor Janet claims they have prepared the way for the discovery of all the others "by forcing us to get away from indeterminate moralizations." His opinion of psychoanalytic method is that its roots extend into the magnetisme animale of the French, and that it is the "last incarnation of those practices at once magical and psychological that characterized magnetism." But, with equal candour, in prophesying its eventual decline he admits its great rôle and the useful impulses it has given to the study of psychology.

A look-round of this remarkably comprehensive, fair-minded and yet acutely critical kind, by a master of the art of psychotherapy, is necessary and salutary in the present state of psychotherapeutic flux.
A Present-day Conception of Mental Disorder. By Charles Macfie Campbell, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard University. 1924. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. Pp. 54. Price 4s. 6d.

This is one of the volumes of the "Harvard Health Talks," and we cannot imagine a more instructive presentation of a somewhat difficult theme than is contained herein. The reading of this small book would not only be a valuable education to the layman, but would also benefit the large number of the medical profession whose conceptions of mental disorder require reconstruction. We are afraid that the price asked for so small a volume may hamper its sale. At a lower price it should be spread broadcast.

C. S. R.


The third volume of the Transactions of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease embodies the investigations and discussions on the difficult subject of heredity, dealt with by the Association at its annual congress in December, 1923. The editorial preface modestly limits the purpose of the volume to the endeavour to introduce a little maturity of vision and clarity of thought into the consideration of questions of heredity by neurologists and psychiatrists, and candidly admits that the Association has found it impossible to reach any conclusions of value; accordingly, no summary of results is given.

The essays comprised in this Report provide thoughtful and stimulating reading, but from their nature they are somewhat heterogeneous and some rather discursive. From the discussions of the question-and-answer type given at the end of some of the papers it is apparent that both contributor and questioner are, as it were, feeling their way through a maze of data the exact interrelation of which is often unclear; mere speculation, however, is eschewed by most of the contributors. Dr. Jelliffe's paper on the parts of the nervous system which tend to exhibit morbid recessive or dominant characters is of much interest, for here is an attempt to explain symptoms on physiological rather than anatomical lines. His line of argument would be fortified by reference to several of Hughlings Jackson's writings, but as far as the reviewer has noticed no allusion is made to these by Dr. Jelliffe. If one reads the volume critically one is soon aware of the fact that a great deal of our study of heredofamilial cases has never passed the stage of mere description; yet some of the contributors, at any rate, are alive to the genetic and prophylactic importance of the problems here set out. In spite of interesting essays written from a Mendelian standpoint no answer is as yet forthcoming to the question thus posed by Pierre Marie: "What gives the parents the sad privilege of procreating such children?"

The outstanding value of the book is that it does provide a mise-à-point from which further studies it is to be hoped will emanate.