interested in the evolution of the human mind. The scope of this work may be indicated by a summary of its contents. In the first part a survey is given of the development of the mental hygiene movement in various countries. The second part is devoted to an account of the various methods of psychological examination (mental tests, etc.). The principles of mental prophylaxis are outlined in the third part. In the fourth the various directions in which the principles of mental hygiene can be applied are indicated: psychic education, professional orientation and adaptation, and eugenics. The fifth part is concerned with an account of the application of the principles of mental hygiene to predisposed and abnormal individuals with special reference to the question of open clinics for early mental cases, backward and abnormal children, drug-addicts, and delinquents. A full bibliography is appended to each chapter. The book, which may be recommended to psychiatrists as a useful work of reference, includes a short introduction by Dr. Toulouse.

H. D.


This book, the first edition of which appeared in 1919, is designed "to serve as a guide for students of abnormal psychology in the absence of a comprehensive textbook." It is essentially a classified list of abnormal phenomena, and of the chief theories which are held with regard to them. Each chapter concludes with a bibliography. As a work of reference, and as an indicator of the directions in which fuller information can be obtained concerning the various departments of psychopathology, the book should prove of considerable value.


The third edition of Dr. Monrad-Krohn's guide to the examination of the nervous system has been slightly enlarged by the addition of accounts of the pharmacological tests of the vegetative nervous system, the pilomotor and postural reflexes, the technique of cisterna magna puncture, and the use of lipiodol injections in conjunction with X-ray examination. The addition of a number of original illustrations enhances the value of the book, which may be recommended to the student with the utmost confidence.


An excellent brief resumé of the history of mental healing. Five general periods are dealt with—the stages of miracles and mysticism preceding the 18th century; the animal magnetism of Mesmer in the 18th century; the beginning
of the scientific method in hypnotism; the clinical period of Charcot and Janet; and, lastly, the analytical schools of Freud and Jung. The subject is simply but very interestingly and instructively presented. It is a pity that such a useful little work addressed to the public should be relatively expensive.

C. S. R.


The veteran Professor Bechterew gives in some four hundred pages a revue d’ensemble of his life-work in respect of human personality. Pointing out in some detail the shortcomings of all subjective methods of approach to personality problems, he emphasises afresh the value of objective methods, and while not here vouchsafing the reader a full description of his technique he elaborates rather the results this has furnished in all levels of neural activity, from the lowest to the highest. For him the psychical processes of the higher animals are brain-processes: all the actions of living beings can be classed as reflexes of offence and defence, consecutive to specific external stimuli and inward ruling conditions. The general thesis is maintained with an extraordinary wealth of illustration, much of which is distinctly impressive. The actual basis of Freudian hypotheses can be set out, according to the author, in terms of reflex action. Incidentally, he refuses to link his work in any way with the behaviour psychology of Watson and others, since its inception dates back to the eighties of last century, and since it is erected on wider conceptions.

Not a little of the interest of the closely reasoned argument resides in its effort to unify neurological and psychological mechanisms. So far from conceding the existence of unbridgeable gaps between the physical and the physiological, and between the latter and the psychological, Professor Bechterew holds the view that “neuropsychical energy” underlies all manifestations, physiological and psychological, and that it itself is but a special form of that physical energy which is all-pervading.

The volume will repay close perusal.


This small volume, which we noted in its first edition, has evidently fulfilled a useful purpose. In this edition there are small and unimportant changes. Mental nurses undoubtedly should have some insight into psychology, but we