

emotion. This process he designates as a kind of abreaction, and the appearance in consciousness of the images is assumed to be a matter of free association. There is, therefore, nothing at all new in the method except its restriction to the half-waking state. He describes its application in a number of conditions, in a very general way.

R. D. G.

Die Grundlagen der Psychoanalyse. By Dr. HEINZ HARTMANN. Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1927. Pp. 192. Price M. 9.60.

THE author is concerned to display psychoanalysis as a science and its methods as scientific methods. He points out that its concepts and bearing are biological, and he relates certain psychoanalytic findings to results obtained in the laboratories of experimental psychology. There are chapters, among others, on free association, on the unconscious, on psychical dynamics, on symbolism, instinct, the libido-theory, and on the relation of psychoanalysis to psychiatry. They contain convenient summary expositions of the basic Freudian assumptions, with a defence of the latter where a defence seemed necessary. The chapter on the relations of psychoanalysis and psychiatry emphasises the importance of psychoanalytic contributions to the study of the content in the psychoses, and claims priority for psychoanalysis in the systematic investigation of the personality. The psychoanalytic interpretation of the real significance of precipitating factors is also elaborated. There is a commendable caution in the author's attitude towards the would-be psychoanalytic explanation of essential epilepsy. The book is a useful summary and defence of psychoanalytic theory, on a broad basis.

R. D. G.

Stammering. A Psychoanalytic Interpretation. By ISADOR H. CORIAT, M.D. (Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series, No. 47.) Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Co., New York and Washington. 1928. Pp. 68.

THIS monograph is an amplification of contributions on the subject previously published by the author in various journals. Different theories of stammering—cerebral congestion, transient auditory amnesia, spastic neurosis of speech, localized motor obsessional neurosis, hereditary tic—are briefly considered and found to be unsatisfactory from many points of view. In the following chapters the writer's views are elaborated at some length to show that stammering is a psychoneurosis and that its rational treatment and prevention must be on psychoanalytical lines. Stammering is regarded as a regression to the earliest level of childhood, at which stage in this respect there is an arrest of development. The individual has remained fixed at the oral stage of libido, finds morbid gratification in his symptom by means of which he tenaciously retains his earliest source of pleasure, that of nursing. There is also a conflict produced by ego resistance against betrayal through speech of certain thoughts,

mainly sexual in nature. Evidence is brought forward to support these views and the stammerer is stated to have character traits which confirm this interpretation.

The author says that the conception here given is not a mere theoretical speculation or a philosophical system of ideas, but is the result of practical experience in psychoanalysis. Considering the inadequacy of current methods of attacking stammering, this psychoanalytical viewpoint should receive due recognition, whether or no all its details can be accepted. No psychopathologist can afford to neglect the study of the conceptions treated of in these pages. There is, however, much repetition, which might have been avoided with advantage. A bibliography is appended.

C. S. R.

The Struggles of Male Adolescence. By C. STANFORD READ, M.D.
London: Fisher Unwin. 1928. Pp. 243. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS is a clearly written book on the problems confronting the growing youth. It is unusually just in the weight which it apportions to the various factors that constitute his difficulties, and introduces Freudian interpretations in reasonable proportions and in a common-sense way. The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the emotional forces at work in the course of development, the second with the consequences of conflict between them and the methods of resolving the conflict. In the chapter on heredity stress is properly laid on the importance of environmental factors in moulding the individual, and this leads to a hopeful attitude towards the treatment of the major and minor symptoms that are succinctly and clearly described in the later part of the book. Other chapters deal with the sexual instinct, and the emotional influences of home and of school. The discussion of corporal punishment is a moderate and enlightened one. The chapter on parental problems contains some wise remarks. On the whole the book tends to over-emphasise the importance of sexual difficulties, but not in any far-fetched way, and it should be helpful to parents and teachers.

Clinique Médicale des Enfants: Affections du Système Nerveux.

By P. NOBÉCOURT, physician to the Hôpital des Enfants-Malades, Paris.

With 70 illustrations. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1928. Pp. 374. Price 45 fr.

IN a series of clinical lectures delivered at various times during the last few years and now published in book form, Professor Nobécourt gives a lucid and interesting demonstration of the clinical aspects of such familiar conditions as epidemic encephalitis, Sydenham's chorea, tuberculous meningitis, meningococcal meningitis, pneumococcal meningitis, poliomyelitis, diphtheritic palsy, facial palsy, and Friedreich's disease; other chapters are devoted to headache in childhood, to the nervous complications of typhoid fever, to congenital syphilis, sleepy states, and herpes zoster. In a pleasantly readable fashion he furnishes us with clinical histories, sketches in outline his methods of diagnosis, and duly emphasises his difficulties and hesitations when the case is not clear. Etiology and treatment are dealt with at some length,