"Marriage as a psychological relationship," and "The love-problem of the student" deal at large and in a wise way with cognate problems which exercise the minds of many present-day men and women. "Modern" points of view—not always so very "modern," either—are touched on with insight and sympathy, for instance the matter of sexual hygiene, and the question of sexual information. It is held to be true in general terms that the youth of to-day apprehend the problem of sexuality in its whole range earlier and more radically than in the case of the previous generation. With Dr. Jung's statement that "the fact that many pursue such discussions to the point of abuse does not spring from the nature of the problem, but rather from the inferiority of the people who abuse it," all minds capable of even judgment are likely to agree. From the standpoint of the clinician, similarly, we appreciate the wisdom of Dr. Jung's remark, that onanism has bad results mainly if not solely where it involves psychic complications. These three papers are distinguished by their strong psychological common sense.

"The question of the therapeutic value of 'abreaction'" is examined in a critical spirit; any curative effect does not consist simply in the discharge of affective tension; the dissociation must equally be resolved, and on this resolution success depends. From this conclusion the writer passes to a consideration of the alpha and omega of all psychotherapeutic method, viz., the establishment of rapport between physician and patient. These pages are rich in suggestion and practical advice; more than that, they contain a confession of Dr. Jung's own belief, based on experience, that the development of the healing effect lies primarily in the achievement by the physician of an individual relationship with the patient, in which both meet on equal terms, the man in each confronting the man in the other.

More technical papers deal with "Psychical energy" and with "Instinct and the unconscious," among others. In these, as has been admirably said by the translators (whose work deserves all praise), "the readers who have suffered fatigue in the restricted purlieus of psychoanalytical literature will feel again the exhilaration of a wide scientific horizon."

S. A. K. W.


Dr. Kinnier Wilson has collected in this volume a number of his recent contributions to neurology, some of which have appeared in the pages of this Journal. Included in the series are his Croonian Lectures of 1925, and other lectures delivered at the Harveian Society of London and under the auspices of the British Medical Association. All have been submitted to critical revision, and some have been modified to no little extent. The first four chapters of the book deal with different aspects of epilepsy; the fifth is on narcolepsy. There are six chapters on the motor system and its problems of involuntary
movement and of disorders of muscle tone. The remaining subjects are "Pathological laughing and crying," "Dysæsthesiae and their neural correlates," and "The Argyll Robertson pupil."

It will be seen that these papers cover a wide field of research in neurology, and that the topics dealt with comprise a number which are of continuing modern interest. Each chapter is provided with a bibliography, and there are a number of illustrations. In this convenient form the book embodies the views of its author on various vexed questions, and contains an up-to-date presentment which will appeal to the serious neurological student.


The remarkable properties of mescal (anhalonium Lewinii) have been known for many years, and have from time to time been made the subject of pharmacological, clinical, and psychological research. Dr. Kluver presents the reader with a lucid and well-arranged compendium of knowledge in regard to all the aspects of mescal intoxication, paying special attention to the visual hallucinations, the changes in visual imagery, and the apparent distortion or modification of vision for actual objects. The significance of the approach from the experimental side is, of course, very great, for it provides insight into cerebral mechanisms the expression of the activity of which is largely or entirely of the psychical series. Correlation of the more or less definite effects of mescal toxicosis with corresponding phenomena occasionally seen in organic lesions of the posterior parts of the cerebral hemispheres is of unmistakable importance. The visual manifestations are subjected by Dr. Kluver to a painstaking psychological analysis, as are the personality changes which justify the use of the term "mescal psychosis."

This approach from the experimental side seems to us to be full of promise, even if the subjective factor is not to be eliminated in its entirety. Dr. Macdonald Critchley has prefaced the book with a succinct summary of its methods and conclusions.

The bibliography is rather incomplete; in the text various names are mentioned to which no reference is given; and some contributions ought not to have been omitted, especially those of Dixon and of Lewin.


Dr. Critchley had written a most useful and informative little book on the difficult questions connected with mirror writing and so-called mirror speech. Its value is increased by the insertion of a number of plates reproducing examples of the conditions with which the book deals. Various hypotheses bearing
on these problems are discussed in a brief yet sufficiently critical fashion, and the general conclusion is reached that "handedness" has less to do with mirror-writing than "eyedness"; at the same time, it is admitted that the factors determining this feature of races and individuals are "totally unknown."

Data concerned with inverted writing and with backward speech are cited, and their peculiar interest is fully appreciated by Dr. Critchley, who feels that the details are a rule so meagre and fragmentary that much more investigation and collation of clinical facts must precede hypothesis. He inclines to the view that defective visual perception may be responsible for inverted writing.


Mr. Saudek has devoted years to the study of the minutiae of the art of graphology, as it seems the subject is now called, and what he does not know of these details is doubtless scarcely worth knowing. He has examined with a microscopic eye the infinitely little without losing sight at the same time of calligraphy as a whole, and the reader to whom much of this book's contents may come as a novelty is sure to be impressed, and properly so. But to the neurologist, unfortunately, it is much less likely to be of value. He can learn from it of the influence of intrinsic and extrinsic factors on the end-product, but its examination of neural mechanisms is altogether trifling. The chapter entitled "The central nervous system and the act of writing" has little to do with the central nervous system; and the discussion of "physio-pathological impediments" is equally unsatisfactory.

The collection of varieties of handwriting published in a separate brochure which goes with the book is of some interest.


The Henderson Trust Lectures were founded in 1832 "for the advancement and diffusion of the science of phrenology," and if that "science" is exploded Dr. Norwood East does well to remind us that its founder had other ideas than those of a rigidly phrenological kind. Gall's work embraced much more than craniology. In some respects Gall, Spurzheim, Combe, and others of the group were ahead of their time, especially perhaps in respect of the physiological aspect of criminology. They argued that organs and dispositions correspond, and that if the "organs of the animal propensities" were abnormal and responsible for offences, then mere punishment could never abolish crime. The pendulum has swung far over in that direction to-day, possibly far enough. While it must be accepted as proven that no "criminal type" in a Lombrosan sense exists, the relative value of inherited and acquired causative factors of
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crime is not only not ignored, but is constantly stressed. Constitutional failings are blamed, or environmental difficulties and previous events in the offender’s life. Admittedly, however, only a percentage of criminals are mentally abnormal. And Dr. East says with sound common sense, “It obscures the issue to exaggerate the importance of declared mental disorder and defect, or the less obvious neuroses, as causative factors of crime. No useful purpose is served by regarding the offender as abnormal merely because he commits crime. Indeed, criminal conduct, like social conduct, is the objective expression of a subjective mental state, and cannot be considered abnormal until all the surrounding circumstances have been reviewed as well as the mental condition of the delinquent.”


According to the author, the hypnosis advocated is only a state of absent-mindedness which will enable the subconscious to break through to the surface. While in this condition, a free talk will reveal the patient’s complexes and faults of adaptations. Re-education should follow. His “explanation” of the phenomena of hypnosis here given seems only to be that “the mind of man is largely subconscious and that this subconscious store of ancestral and individual experience, and of inherited instincts and emotions, can be reached by certain procedures. The subconscious mind supplies the stimulus to thought and action.” It is denied that there is any mental dissociation in hypnosis, which is only produced “when things are suggested that are not natural to the subject.” Far-reaching therapeutic claims are made which we can scarcely regard as valid. We cannot agree with the writer that the contents of this book “should prove of interest and value to the medical and psychological expert.” Such readers had much better consult a work where psychotherapeutic principles are dealt with, both theoretically and practically, in a more modern and scientific spirit.

C. S. R.


In two essays that are regrettably brief Professor Blondel endeavours to convey to the reader some idea of his views on the functioning of the insane mind. Impressed, like many other clinical observers, with the difficulty of understanding the meaning of the insane patient’s complaints in numerous instances, and of the language in which these complaints are couched, the writer is led to consider this unintelligibility, this logical and verbal incoherence, as in