

was excusable many years ago when knowledge of the subject was scant among the medical profession, but at the present day it must be severely condemned. He advocates this form of treatment in certain functional disorders such as the "obsessive form of the mnemo-neurosis," but shows an absence of knowledge of such therapy by stating in a footnote—"Anyone who has performed psycho-analysis realises how surely, as the proceeding goes on, the patient, sooner or later, becomes angry; the very remorselessness of the questions, quite apart from their implication, induces in many a feeling of bitter hostility." Anyone who *really* psycho-analyses knows nothing of the sort. A psycho-analyst who knows his business rarely speaks at all.

It is difficult to find anything in this volume to recommend it. The writer has evidently worked hard at his subject, but his style is very diffuse and clouded, and we cannot help but think that the functional disorders are dealt with much more scientifically and accurately by more than one modern authority.

C. STANFORD READ.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Psycho-Pathology.

A Method of Personality Diagnosis and Evaluation with Provision for Social Service Propaganda. (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, October, 1921.) Fernald, G. C.

Recent advances in the study of defective delinquents are largely dependent on the findings in the field of character, that component of mentality which connotes its quality in contrast to its degree, *viz.*, intelligence.

Action or behaviour eventuates from mental organisations fully as significant as indexes of personality-efficiency as are those which eventuate in thought and its expression. Thinking is the product of intelligence, behaviour the product of character, and on the latter each personality is accountable in daily usage and in juridical procedure.

Character deviations or rectitude cannot as yet be technically tested and numerically scored, but can nevertheless be presented in scientific description. Fernald details a classification of behaviour disorders in use at the Psychopathic Laboratory, Massachusetts Reformatory, the inquiry being in three fields—mental disease, intelligence and character.

Unless strength of will exists in the character of the individual the tendency to sloth will defeat the success of a high as readily as of a low intelligence. Mediocre ability to persevere in the pursuit of well-chosen purpose causes economic and sociological failure as often as does incompleteness of knowledge of the course to follow. The imbecile without self-determination will respond to his maximum capacity if on a farm as a chore-boy, content, trusted so far, but always supervised; not so another who as a tramp begs and pilfers but will not work. The essential difference lies in the field of character.

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The investigation of the psychiatric personality determines (1) the presence or absence of mental disease, (2) the mental intelligence level, and (3) deviations or rectitude of character, as egocentricity, sex-conflict, anti-social trend, lack of self-respect, of ambition, of amenability to reason and authority, emotional faculty, unbridled acquisitiveness, etc.

Character then determines the life-activities of the individual. Defective intelligence is stationary and cannot be advanced, but character-growth can both be stimulated and improved. Healy believes in emphasis of the study of character as a thing by itself. Mental tests, so strongly advocated to-day, do not cover all the elements of intelligence. They are insufficient for the determination of conduct-prognosis, of the outcome of character traits, or of vocational possibilities. Psychologists are beginning to awake to this fact. Aristotle's dictum cannot be maintained—that good intelligence will prevent a man from doing wrong; that if he was not a fool he would not do wrong.

Investigations in a large factory showed that mental tests gave little useful information except regarding clerical workers. There is otherwise little correlation between the tests and the behaviour prognosis, *i.e.*, success at work. Some of the most reliable workers may have poor mental capacity, *e.g.*, label-pasters and laboratory cleaners. In fact intelligence may be a handicap in very necessary phases of industrial life; there is instanced a delinquent defective whom his master stated to have been the *only* one who had ever carried out his particular work satisfactorily.

Healy holds that responsibility is hardly a feasible category in such a scheme of classification. Responsibility is a metaphysical conception not open to clear definition, and *in practice* has little to do with the successful management of many cases. In this regard the law seeks finite answers to questions that are unanswerable. It is high time that in the practical issues hereon dependent psychologists should make a plain declaration to the legal profession. JOHN GIFFORD.

2. Neurology.

The Vascularity of the Cerebral Cortex of the Albino Rat. (Journ. Comp. Neurol., August, 1921.) Craigie, E. Horne.

By vascularity is here meant the sum, per unit volume of tissue, of the lengths of the capillaries measured with the micrometer in successive serial sections. Craigie reports observations on the relative vascularity of the various cell laminæ of the cerebral cortex of the albino rat. He finds that in every cortical area examined the lamina granularis interna (Brodmann's lamina IV) is much the most richly vascular, the lamina pyramidalis (III) coming next, with the lamina ganglionaris (V) very little behind it; the poorest layer is the lamina multiformis (VI) in every area except the insular, where the lamina zonalis (I) is very slightly poorer. These observations are interesting in reference to what is at present known of the development and functions of the laminæ. From the work of J. S. Bolton, G. A. Watson, Ariëns Kappers, van Valkenburg, Nissl, van't Hoog and others, it appears that the granular layer (IV) is a primary layer having functions originally receptive, that the functions of the infragranular layers (V, VI) are mainly those of projection and