

of all persons admitted into penal institutions, and of all inmates thereof who apply for parole. During a period of eleven months, 4,324 cases were examined. The results of these examinations are not given. The object was to individualize delinquents, with a view to the adoption of suitable measures for their rehabilitation, where that process was possible. Some system of classification was found to be necessary. The system which has been devised is outlined in this article. The classification is adequate, but is, perhaps, unduly elaborated. There are eight main groups, which include a large number of sub-headings. Like all other classifications, the grouping is open to criticism. For example, the "sexual pervert" type is placed in the "mentally degenerate" class of the "mentally defective" group. But cases of this kind will often be found within the "psycho-neurotic" class or the "mental conflicts" type. Any system of classification is better than none, but we fear that many offenders would have, ultimately, to be placed in the "atypical" or "unclassifiable" group, which ends the list. An intelligence quotient below 70 is assigned as the standard for mental deficiency. Dr. Richmond declares strongly against what he terms the "mechanical theory of human organism."

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Why Alienists disagree in Legal Trials. (Medico-Legal Journ., New York, July, 1926.) Tepley, Leo V.

The disagreement of medical witnesses is an old topic for comment and for sarcasm, although it is probable that they exhibit no greater divergence than do other kinds of expert witness. The phenomenon is more common in America than in this country. This is due, as the article points out, to the pernicious practice of regarding the medical witness as being, necessarily, a partisan, and to the use of the "hypothetical question." From this latter nuisance we are, in this country, comparatively free. So far as criminal trials are concerned, we also have the advantage of possessing, in the medical officers of our larger prisons, a body of experts, whose evidence is always recognized as being strictly impartial. The author despairs of any solution, save that of trying every criminal as to his guilt, leaving the investigation of his mentality to an "impartial board of alienists."

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

8. Mental Hospital Reports.

ENGLAND.

London County.—In the annual report of the Council for the year 1925, it is shown that the actual accommodation for mental patients at present is a total of 19,290 beds (excluding Claybury Hall), but when certain works now in hand are completed the total number of beds available will be 19,792 (males 8,303, females 11,489), and to this figure must be added the 429 beds at Ewell Colony, which have now been handed back to the Council by the Ministry of