

The admission rates of re-admissions were decreasing steadily from 1917-1933. Amongst male admissions, abstinence, temperance and intemperance supply exactly the same numbers. Amongst female admissions 74 per cent. were abstinent and 19 per cent. temperate. Future mental patients did not turn to alcohol as a means of escape from unemployment and depression. The senile psychoses and the arterio-sclerotic psychoses show a higher incidence than all other psychoses combined.

The author points out that prohibition produced a decrease of 20 per cent. in female admissions from dementia praecox, of 29 per cent. in involuntal psychoses and 68 per cent. in female alcoholic psychoses.

"Mental disorders in Massachusetts are increasing so slowly that all apprehension as to the seriousness of the situation may be discarded." It was found that "society has been unable to absorb recovered patients ready for discharge to as great an extent in recent years as in past years."

This is a very interesting book and a very useful model for research on similar problems.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

**Beyond the Clinical Frontiers.** By EDWARD A. STRECKER, M.D.  
London: Chapman & Hall, 1940. Pp. 210. Price 9s. 6d.

This book presents the sixth of the Salmon Memorial Lectures, a memorial to the late Thomas William Salmon.

The first five lecturers all set a very high standard in their work, and Dr. Strecker, who is Professor of Psychiatry at Pennsylvania University, has certainly kept up the standard.

The book is divided into nine chapters dealing with massive retreat from reality; common evasions of everyday life; first aids to reality evasion; the mental patient, the "normal" man and the mob; the crowd man at close range; lessons to be learned from mental pathology; the need for mental hygiene; the feasibility of mental hygiene and mental hygiene planning.

This is mental hygiene at its best, and most charmingly written. The sentence "Our hope lies in the socially-minded person who is sufficiently in touch with reality to be also a non-crowd man" contains a great truth. As Nietzsche said: "Mankind has a poor ear for best music," but the music contained in this book may well prove to attract mankind in time to save him from complete devolution. Mass psychosis needs mental hygiene to prevent it.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

**Psychological Studies in Dementia Praecox.** By ISABELLA KENDIG, Ph.D., and WINIFRED V. RICHMOND, Ph.D. Michigan: Edwards Brothers, 1940. Pp. x + 211.

This book is divided into three parts, dealing with (1) Dementia Praecox and General Intelligence, (2) Patterns of Mental Function in Dementia Praecox, and (3) Dementia Praecox and the Concept of Deterioration.

The authors find that the dementia praecox mind is blunted and dulled. This intellectual inferiority is not due to deterioration, but is mostly the product of emotional maladjustments which later play an important part in the precipitation of the psychosis.

The general impression is that deterioration has not been shown to take place in many cases of dementia praecox. No matter how great the regression, intellectual ability remains intact. There is a functional impairment of intellect, but no permanent loss.

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