

It is difficult to see for whom it is intended. It is too long and detailed for the parent and too elementary for the student. Perhaps there is room for a book on this subject provided the author shows a sound knowledge of psychopathology, for the difference between the normal and the abnormal is mostly merely a matter of degree. E. S. STERN.

Occupational and Physiotherapy. By R. H. FINNEGAN. London: The Actinic Press, 1948. Pp. 127. Price 6s.

This little book is an introduction explaining the nature and scope of the work. There are chapters on history, training, qualifications, special fields, methods, equipment, departmental management, prospects, salaries, etc., covering each type of therapy. The writing is clear and the advice given is sound. There are, however, a few small inaccuracies which should be corrected in the next edition: most girls come from primary schools and so do not hold school certificate, nor is athletic skill highly correlated with craft ability (p. 16), artistry and proficiency in design are as necessary to the occupation therapist as the other qualities mentioned (p. 18), the address of St. Andrew's Hospital is wrongly given in one place (p. 22), and McDougall is misspelt (p. 28). The statement that diabetes is often completely cured if attended to in time is unfortunately untrue.

But these are minor faults, and the book is recommended to those contemplating a career in occupational or physiotherapy. E. S. STERN.

Inside the Asylum. By JOHN VINCENT. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1948. Pp. 115. Price 6s.

Too many books are being published in which the author describes his own mental illness as if it was unique and of value to the world, not realizing that such experiences are only too commonplace. In this case, however, unusual insight is shown and the psychosis is related to some of the causative events in an unhappy childhood. At the onset of symptoms he suffered unnecessarily long owing to the failure of his doctors. Such tragedies show how urgent is the need for better psychiatric education of the general practitioner. Some of his criticisms of mental hospitals are ill informed, but others, such as not being told what clothes to bring, being left hungry on admission, lack of privacy and quiet, and clumsy shaving, are genuine enough. He is grateful for the excellent psychotherapy he received. It is a pity that such a well told tale is marred by a sensational dust cover design by G. N. Finch, and an intemperate introduction by Vera Brittain. E. S. STERN.

Psychiatry. By WILLIAM C. MENNINGER, M.D. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1948. Pp. xi + 138. Price 2\$.

These are the Messenger Lectures for 1947 delivered at Cornell University. Dr. Menninger gives a scholarly, learned, and readable review of psychiatric history, psychopathology, and social psychiatry. His language is clear and effortless, and even those who are ignorant of the subject will benefit from and be interested by this volume. Indeed it is hard to conceive of the work being better done. The paper, printing and production are excellent, making a tasteful and desirable book. E. S. STERN.

A Modern Introduction to Psychology. By REX KNIGHT, B.A., and MARGARET KNIGHT, B.A. Published by University Tutorial Press, Ltd. Price 7s. 6d.

In a small book which sets out to introduce the university student into psychology, one cannot expect an adequate treatment of all aspects of this vast subject. Everything essential should be presented in a clear language

without too many technical terms and yet not cheaply popularized. The space allotted to each topic should be carefully balanced. Large parts of the book come close to this ideal as, for instance, the chapters on learning, memory, instincts, attention and others. Equally satisfactory is an outline of Freud's theory under the headings: Conflict, Anxiety and Guilt, the Subconscious and Dreams. The names of Jung and Adler should be mentioned when their views are discussed. Unfortunately, psychologists insist that anatomy and physiology of the nervous and the endocrine systems should be included in an introduction like this. Their presentation is so superficial that it cannot serve any useful purpose. These chapters should be omitted and the student referred to special books on this subject. Instead of paragraphs on prefrontal leucotomy and E.C.T., one would like to see a chapter on the psychology of personality and something more on heredity and environment and on the use and limitations of statistical methods in psychology.

The book is well laid out: the diagrams and examples illustrating various points in the text are well chosen. Particularly valuable are the "Notes on Reading" at the end of each chapter.

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