

is recorded with realism and without sensationalism. The overall principles of recreation and treatment are discussed. This part of the book is of special interest when compared with the administration of other mental hospitals. Psychiatrists will find the introductory chapters on legal and medical insanity particularly appropriate at the present time in view of the evidence given before the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment.

With reference to the account given of the shooting at Queen Victoria at Windsor Railway Station on 2 March, 1882, it should be noted that Mr. Partridge, like some other authors, repeats the statement that the Queen objected to the prisoner being found "*Not Guilty* on the ground of insanity" as she saw him fire the pistol herself. But an extract from the Court Circular issued from Windsor Castle on 3 March, 1882, and published in the *Daily Telegraph* on 4 March 1882, states: "The Queen *heard the report* (of the pistol) *but did not see* the occurrence, though Princess Beatrice, who was sitting on that side of the carriage, perceived the man raise his hand and fire." This caveat is not without interest for as the result of the Queen's reaction to the above verdict the Trial of Lunatics Act, 1883, followed and the words "*Guilty* of the act or omission . . ." were introduced in the verdict.

NORWOOD EAST.

**Social Science and Mental Health. An Essay on Psychiatric Social Workers.** By MARGARET ASHDOWN and S. CLEMENT BROWN. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, Ltd. 1953. Pp. 254. Price 16s.

This book deals with a branch of social service little more than twenty years old, and will impress the reader with the authors' intimate knowledge of their subject. Sound judgement, a practical approach and occasional criticisms are presented with carefully chosen words. A close acquaintance and understanding of the tensions which confront the psychiatric social worker, who is essentially concerned with mental illness, maladjusted personalities and personal relations, are apparent throughout the book. The definition of this speciality by the American Association of Psychiatric Workers is quoted—"Social work undertaken in direct and responsible working with psychiatry"—and its merits are acknowledged. But it is pointed out that it does not suggest the element of reciprocity between social work and psychiatry and the need of each for what the other can contribute.

The authors discuss the origin and growth of psychiatric service. This is followed by examples of case work, and the selection and training of those who choose this form of work are subsequently discussed. The careers of some trained psychiatric social workers are then presented factually and impartially, and their services in clinics, hospitals and wider fields are examined. Other chapters on personal difficulties, ends and means, and on considerations of wider significance are included. Each chapter is a valuable contribution to an important book. Miss Ashdown and Miss Brown are to be congratulated.

NORWOOD EAST.

**Reason and Unreason in Psychological Medicine.** By E. B. STRAUSS. Foreward by SIR RUSSELL BRAIN. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., Pp. 55. Price not stated.

Dr. Strauss has collected under the above title his Presidential Address to the Medical Section of the British Psychological Society in 1946 and his Croonian Lectures in 1952. In the preface he states he has tried to follow the middle way and in his Presidential Address he seems to point to the white line when he states, "Any and every psychological formulation is little better than a parable, or simile, or metaphor. The same is true to a certain extent of all scientific formulations . . ." He believes that psychoanalytical theory in its present form will have nothing new to offer suffering humanity, and he discusses