

Reviews

Narrative of a Child Analysis. By MELANIE KLEIN. Hogarth Press, London. Price 75s.

This is a long book of 466 pages, which gives a very detailed account, session by session, of four months' analytic work with a ten-year-old boy and includes reproductions of numerous drawings. The child's behaviour and conversation and the analyst's interpretations are given with accompanying descriptive notes and theoretical conclusions from the material, and it is intended as a companion volume to Mrs. Klein's *Psycho-Analysis of Children*, in order to illustrate her technique in greater detail. It gives a valuable illustration of the type of child analysis developed by Mrs. Klein and her followers, which differs considerably in theory and technique from the orthodox Freudian child analysis as practised in this country and the United States. Mrs. Klein, for example, makes no use of the interpretation of defence, a cornerstone in ego-analysis, but places much greater emphasis on the interpretation of most of the material in terms of the transference.

The writing is clear and readable and provides a vivid account of the analysis, but the wealth of the material, much of it of necessity repetitive, makes it a difficult book to read. It is essentially a book for the specialist, and the novice will be well advised not to attempt using the technical tools here demonstrated without an adequate training in the theoretical considerations from which they are derived.

SUSANNAH DAVIDSON.

Mental Subnormality. By W. A. HEATON-WARD. John Wright & Sons, Ltd., Bristol. 1960.

This little book gives a brief account of the causes and degrees of mental subnormality, with a short section on the developing child, mental tests, mental illness in the mentally subnormal, epilepsy and community and hospital care. The relevant provisions of the Mental Health Act are outlined.

The choice of the terms "primary amentia" and "secondary amentia" is unfortunate, as this terminology is outmoded, and a phrase such as "simple undifferentiated amentia" should not be used in 1960.

The section on hospital training is also somewhat old fashioned, mentioning domestic work and residential domestic posts for females and farm training schemes for males. There is no reference to the rapidly growing facilities in hospitals for training in light industrial work, subcontracted from factories, such as making cake boxes, assembling radio parts, toy making and scores of other jobs of a simple repetitive type for which there is wide scope for subsequent employment in the community.

The book may be of some value to those requiring a quick orientation in this field.

B. W. RICHARDS.

The Integrity of the Personality. By ANTHONY STORR. Heinemann, London, 1960. Pp. 174. Price 15s.

The author of this short and intriguing book is a consultant psychiatrist and analytical psychotherapist of the Jungian school. His aim is to define in simple terms the basic assumptions upon which his practice of psychiatry and psychotherapy rests. In this he has succeeded, and the personal and subjective quality of his writing combined with the clarity of his formulations make this a refreshing and readable document, the more so because it concerns an area where "scientific" and "objective" are still too frequently equated. Dr. Storr hopes that his book may contribute towards understanding of the psychotherapeutic relationship; in the sense that he has conveyed vividly and sympathetically some important principles about the dynamics of the