

Dr. HEYER writes the chapter on hypnotherapy, its history, methods and variations. The chief types are discussed and their relationship to light hypnosis and trance are fully dealt with. The physiological and psychological changes are considered, but not as adequately as one would wish. Much work in the neurological field has a bearing upon hypnosis and the allied states of sleep and catalepsy. These important relationships are not sufficiently dealt with.

Dr. HAAS HATTINGBERG covers the complicated field of psychoanalysis. The subject is dealt with by starting with the Breuer-Freud concepts of psychic traumata and repressed affect, and all the familiar phases of the Freudian psychology are examined and explained. A separate section might have been devoted to Freud's conception of infantile sexuality in order to bring out the relationship between regression and symptom-formation. Unless this concept is made thoroughly clear the Freudian psychology becomes unintelligible. While dealing with the psycho-analytic explanation of types, the author says little about the Freudian explanations of manic-depressive insanity and schiophrenia.

Dr. WEXBERG considers briefly the Adlerian point of view, and its particular usefulness in understanding childhood problems and helpfulness in education.

Dr. KRONFELD has by far the largest section on the subject of psychotherapeutic education, and coins the word "Psychogojik"! He pleads that it is the oldest form of psychotherapy. The author discusses the value of work and ethical training for children and adults. He explores the whole range of the "erotic motive" in life and conduct, and advocates psychological education.

Each section has a good bibliography, which makes the volume additionally useful.

E. MILLER.

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*Vom Liebes und Sexuellenleben [Love and Sexual Life]: Erfahrungen aus der Praxis für Aertze, Juristen und Erzieher.* Von Dr. MED. LUDWIG FRANK. Leipzig: Georg Thieme, Verlag 1927. 2 vols. Demy 8vo. Pp. xx + 407 and 807. Price M. 16,50.

These two large volumes, couched in the form of letters to friends, doctors and patients, contain the ripe experience of a very varied practice in the field of psycho-pathology. This method of conveying psycho-pathological information and advice has certain dangers. On the one hand, it is calculated to antagonize the uninitiated by a certain pomposity that didactic writing always possesses, and on the other, it may irritate the student of psychology by a pontifical air.

The letters are arranged in order of the age of the persons dealt with in the communication. Some deal with the difficulties of childhood, adolescence and the delinquencies which appear at those periods. Later letters concern the vicissitudes of the love life in young adults, and the remainder cover the whole field of married life, sexual disharmony, frigidity, impotence, and homosexuality.

In each letter the psychiatrist attempts to convey to the reader, the results of a series of interviews with the patient, and the opinion formed as to the conflicts and their resolution. It is obvious that while the author has not carried out a full analysis of the cases on strictly psycho-analytical lines, he has elucidated the problem in each on the basis of Freudian psychology, which he adopts entirely, except the recent developments along the lines of ego-psychology. Those who have first-hand knowledge of the Freudian method will be somewhat sceptical as to the results achieved.

Conflicts are not solved by pointing them out to the patient, but only as a result of the protracted free-associations, which bring to the surface unresolved conflicts and disturbances in the development of the instinctive processes.

But the defect need not detract from the usefulness of the two volumes, which cover a wide field of the anomalies in the psycho-sexual life. Such letters, however, can only prove useful to the general physician and psychiatrist if they are treated as hints from an experienced physician's case-book and not as general principles.

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*Tonic Hardening of the Colon.* By T. STACEY WILSON, M.D., B.Sc.Ed., F.R.C.P.Lond. Oxford Medical Publications: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. Demy 8vo. Pp. xxiii + 210. Price 8s. 6d. net.

Although the author writes on a condition that has been recognized for many years, it is to his credit that in this volume he has gathered together from his long experience, the symptomatology of tonic hardening of the colon and facts which make this hitherto little-known ailment of considerable interest and importance.

Much of the information is of value to the general practitioner, but certain sections dealing with the relationship of tonic hardening of the colon to mental disorders are of special interest to psychiatrists. The condition of chronic colon hardening consists of a prolonged over-activity of the muscular coat, described by Sherrington as postural muscular activity. The author uses the term "tonic elastic fixation" for this plastic form of static activity of the colon which renders it similar to a rubber tube.

The lesion is usually localized to the cæcum and sigmoid, but when absent from these sites must be looked for also in other parts of the colon, including the rectum. Tonic hardening, he describes as a reflex nervous phenomenon dependent not only on the amount of stimulus received from afferent impulses to the reflex centre in the segment of the cord affected, but upon the excitability of the centre itself.

Thus the symptoms arising may be expected to vary according to the state of the central nervous system at the time. This reflex pain, frequently segmental in character, can be ascertained from the patient's history or by palpation of the hardened segment. In some the type and onset of the reflex pain suggests