

have perforce had to be dealt with by means of school education and supervision only, under which the majority are capable of absorbing and of living up to ideals.

The conclusion of the author is that the majority of the feeble-minded may safely be retained as functioning members of society, *provided* the group exercises over them a sufficient degree of social self-control to give them the training suited to their capacities, and continues to furnish throughout their lives the sort of leadership which will foster in them the highest social ideals. The way this task has been approached by the authorities of the leading institutions in the United States forms the subject of interesting chapters on social reconstruction, which should be read by all who have such a task before them. It is not enough to test a person to know that he will grade as mentally defective; his whole personality must be the subject of inquiry, the right subject to awaken interest must be found, and various methods tried to exchange faulty for desirable forms of reaction. The method is not haphazard, albeit it must necessarily proceed by methods of trial and error. Although it is impossible to supply a missing intellect, it is often possible to socialize the personality; though the smaller number whose anti-social reactions are confirmed will always need permanent care. The most successful schemes seem to include school, followed by a period at a colony, and gradual reintroduction to the world through some system of boarding-out as a worker or life in a hostel. This latter method fortunately seems likely to take root in this country, where such provision has so far been sadly neglected.

The methods expounded by the author cover the chief experiments of which the results are so far available, and if the ideal method has not yet been found, they point the way to the best and most economical use of our available resources, with a minimum of interference with the liberty of the subject or the self-respect of the community.

F. S.

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*Health and Conduct.* By ARTHUR J. BROCK, M.D. Edin. With an Introduction by Prof. PATRICK GEDDES. London: Williams & Norgate, Ltd., 1923. Demy 8vo. Pp. xxiii + 295. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This book is offered as a doctor's contribution to sociology; and certainly the medical man, whose profession brings him into contact with all kinds of people and provides him with an intimate knowledge of the conditions under which they live, should be peculiarly fitted to contribute studies of value to social science. Dr. Brock is a disciple of Comte, the founder of sociology in its modern sense, whose teachings have recently borne fruit in the work of Geddes and others on Regionalism and Civics. For Dr. Brock, as for Comte, sociology is not a matter of statistics, blue books and economics; rather is a living science—the science of human life. If society is regarded as a living organism, it is natural for the doctor to develop the thesis that its present disturbed state is the expression of a social disease, the causation, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of

which may be elucidated and ameliorated by methods similar to those applied to diseases of the individual. This, briefly, is the line of thought pursued by the author, the idea of his book being based upon the parallels between human diseases and diseases of the body politic.

Taking the view that the origin of our present discontents is mainly a mental condition—a psycho-sociological upset comparable to “shell-shock”—the author, approaching the subject historically, proceeds to consider the stages by which society has reached its present state of “neurasthenia.” In successive chapters he describes the pre-war, war and post-war mentalities, and endeavours to show how the existing pathological state of society is related to, and has arisen out of, the conditions which preceded it. Dr. Brock is widely read, and not only does he base his views upon a critical survey of the tendencies of modern life and thought, but also upon an extensive knowledge of the history, development and decline of past civilizations. In developing his subject the author has many interesting things to say about political, psychological, medical and educational problems and movements. Possibly he endeavours to cover too much ground; he touches upon so many aspects, departments and phases of life, with abrupt transitions from one to another, that his arguments are sometimes obscured and fail to reach their conclusion so smoothly as we could wish. His analysis of the present state of social life is, however, interesting and suggestive, and obviously the outcome of much study and personal observation. How far the gospel of regionalism, the principles of which the author endeavours to explain in this book, would be effective in resolving the existing conflicts of social life it is difficult to say. Unfortunately it is always easier to diagnose a disease than to cure it, and no writer can be expected to do more than make a few helpful suggestions for the treatment of the maladies of social life, the causes of which are so complex. This much Dr. Brock has done; and his view that progress in the future must depend upon a wider conception of the duties of citizenship is undoubtedly true. Each individual has to learn from his youth upwards that he is not an independent unit, but a more or less insignificant factor in the sum of the individuals which make up the community in which he lives. This appears to be the spirit which Regionalism is intended to foster. At the conclusion of the book the author refers the reader to a number of books and pamphlets in which the principles of this new movement are dealt with more concretely than he is able to do in his own volume. H. DEVINE.

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*Sexuological Essays.* By W. C. RIVERS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Leipzig: Curt Kabitzsch, 1924. Pp. vi + 168. Circulation limited to medical practitioners. May be obtained from the author, Worsboro Bridge, Barnsley, Yorks. Price 7s. 6d. post free.

The important subject of sexual abnormalities is but little understood, even by medical practitioners. This ignorance Dr. Rivers