

causes. This fact was eloquently demonstrated during the late war, when it was found that, in spite of being exposed to a combination of personal or occasional causes, only those soldiers who were already predisposed became mentally affected.

These few points are sufficient to emphasize the supreme importance of the constitutional element in the causation of the psychoses and psychoneuroses.

The only means of successfully combating the constitutional causes is by physical and mental prophylaxis. With regard to the infections, intoxications and organic diseases which constitute the main causes of degeneration, these belong to the domain of physical prophylaxis, and, as such, are already being dealt with in a progressive manner. One of the chief objects of mental prophylaxis proper is to disseminate the knowledge of neuro-psychiatry and biology. The individual must be taught not only the nature of mental and nervous disorders and the causes liable to produce them, but also the means of combating those causes. If the present generation were to be enlightened on these matters, the mental outlook for future generations would be more hopeful.

Dr. Damaye maintains that too much time in the schools is spent in teaching the classics and mathematics. He complains that no instruction is given in biology, no enlightenment on sex matters where this is called for, no warning against venereal disease or against infections and other avoidable maladies.

Unfortunately so much space is devoted to a criticism of French laws, customs and institutions that it is doubtful whether the book as a whole will appeal to many English readers.

NORMAN R. PHILLIPS.

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*Clinical and Experimental Studies in Personality.* By MORTON PRINCE, M.D., LL.D. Sci-Art Publishers, 1929. 9½ in. by 6½ in. Pp. xvi + 559. 25 illustrations and diagrams. Price \$5 net.

The slowly (but surely) coalescing "worlds" of academic psychology and of psychiatry alike will welcome this collection of the more important writings of one of the most distinguished authorities on the subconscious aspects of personality. For forty years Morton Prince, free to study, has been investigating these obscure phenomena, and what he considers the best of his writings in brief form are herein included, except for a few recent articles. Lectures delivered in courses at Oxford, Cambridge, London, Edinburgh, Harvard and California Universities are likewise unrepresented. Although in his seventy-fifth year (and the average man looks older at sixty-five), Prof. Prince retains his scientific productivity to a very large degree, as his recent interesting paper read before the American Psychological Association in New York amply testifies. Not long ago he presented his *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, a prosperous "going

concern," to that Association, under the actual editorship largely of President Henry J. Moore, of Skidmore College, Saratoga.

After a characteristically frank and enlightening preface and historical retrospect of seven pages, with reminiscences of Weir Mitchell, Janet, Freud, William James and Waterman, the book lists the twenty papers which compose it, divided into four groups, Problems of Psychopathology, Problems of Personality, Problems of the Co-conscious, and Problems of Consciousness. The following are the titles of the papers: "The *Rôle* of Meaning in Psychopathology," "The Psychopathology of a Case of Phobia—A Clinical Study," "The Subconscious Setting of Ideas in Relation to the Psychoneuroses," "Association Neuroses," "Suggestive Depersonalization and Repersonalization, or What is Hypnotism?" "Why we have Traits: An Introduction to the Study of Personality," "Miss Beauchamp: The Theory of the Psychogenesis of Multiple Personality," "My Life as a Dissociated Personality," "An Introspective Analysis of Conscious Life," "Experiments to Determine Co-conscious Ideation," "Experiments in Psycho-galvanic Reactions from Co-conscious (Subconscious) Ideas in a Case of Multiple Personality," "Some Problems of Abnormal Psychology," "An Experimental Study of Visions," "Conscious Images," "An Experimental Study of the Mechanism of Hallucinations," "The Theory of the Co-conscious," "The Subconscious" (contributions to a symposium), "The Mechanism and Interpretation of Dreams," "Why the Body has a Mind, and the Survival of Consciousness after Death," and "Hughlings Jackson on the Connection between the Mind and the Brain."

An appendix consists of a hitherto unpublished article written twenty years ago and refurbished as one of his lectures in his Department of Abnormal and Dynamic Psychology at Harvard; it is entitled "History of the Discovery of Co-conscious Ideas." There is next in the volume a list of names referred to, and last of all an ample subject index. The book is well printed and bound.

This work, then, consists of the essentials of Morton Prince's psychology, using the term in its broadest sense; to review it critically would be as laborious as it would be needless and presumptuous. Among others, Prof. W. S. Taylor's work, *Morton Prince and Abnormal Psychology*, has done this expositing very well. The saner and the more conscientious of Prof. Prince's followers will continue their gratification, knowing that analysis of the subconscious or co-conscious can be successfully made without recourse to the Freudian exaggerations. "Of course there is much, very much, in Freudian psychology that every experienced investigator accepts, but this 'much' is not specially Freudian, but is common dynamic psychology" (Preface). In England, probably more generally than in New York, this basic opinion will be concurred in.

He relates in regard to the considerable extent of his *Dissociation of a Personality* (1906) that he purposely, with malice aforethought, constructed it in the form of a dramatic story of great length in order to secure readers "outside of the psycho-analytic school,"

whereas "as a scientific account it well might have been condensed within the compass of fifty pages. I think my little ruse was successful."

In the Preface he also briefly traces the struggles of the dynamic point of view from Janet's classic studies of hysteria in 1887. He says that, even in 1906, when he founded his *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, there was so little understanding of what it would discuss that some of his outstanding colleagues in the medical profession said that he was about to launch a "spook journal." Those of us who lived in Boston at that time can perhaps well guess who some of these distinguished neurologists and alienists were! "Now," he says, the "Freudian tide is slowly receding, and a safe and sane dynamic psychology is coming into its own again."

The scientific world will certainly welcome this volume into its book-shelves.

GEORGE VAN NESS DEARBORN.

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*The Psychology of Mental Disorders.* By ABRAHAM MYERSON, M.D. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1927. 16mo. Pp. vii + 135. Price 6s. net.

This is a plain spoken and clearly written little book, well planned for its purpose, which is to stimulate an intelligent but non-professional interest in the realities of mental disease. There is a praiseworthy absence of camouflage, and no attempt to anaesthetize the public by the use of such terms as "nervousness," "nervous breakdown," etc., into thinking that the mind is only affected in a condition known as lunacy or insanity.

Too long has this farcical attitude been maintained by fashionable physicians and dilettante social workers who really know better. The mental hygiene movement arose to dispel such insincerities and not to perpetuate them.

Myerson treats his public fearlessly, and seeks to make it definitely acquainted with the truth of the matter. It is a book of rare honesty, which, if read, will do much to dispel popular ignorance on an important subject.

It must not be thought, however, that this is merely a book of propaganda. On the contrary, it is a condensed but readable form of the author's psychiatric views and teaching presented in his larger works, and of educational value to the medical student—in fact it would be difficult to find a more concise, yet comprehensive, introduction to psychiatry.

Myerson in his discourse steers clear of metaphysical or *a priori* conceptions. Mind is a manifestation of life, a function of the organism, and disease of the brain is the cause of disease of the mind. He pays regard more to facts than to tradition, and there is a detached wholesomeness in his attitude rarely to be found in psychiatric writers.

One finishes the book distinctly encouraged in the belief that mental disease is not a hopeless problem, *i.e.*, something to be borne with patience and resignation, but one to be bravely tackled in all