

*Clinical Lectures on Psychological Medicine.* By HENRY YELLOWLEES, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.F.P.S., F.R.C.P.Edin., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. London: J. & A. Churchill. Pp. viii + 310. Demy 8vo. Price 12s. 6d.

There is no doubt but that the present position in psychiatric teaching is unsatisfactory, and as long as the knowledge required for a diploma in "psychological" medicine still consists of fourths physical facts and theories, any book that is mainly psychological in its treatment of clinical psychiatry (as apart from its mere title) comes as a breath of fresh air. Such a book is Dr. Yellowlees'.

His approach, though definitely psychological, is yet essentially clinical and practical, and his book contains a great deal of useful material and advice that is too often neglected in the student's training, such as the attitude to adopt towards the patient's relatives, the principles governing the home treatment of insanity, the likelihood of suicide, and many other matters. But above all, the reader is furnished with certain general principles which will help him to form his own outlook, and no attempt is made to cramp his developing understanding of mental derangement by lengthy descriptions of all the different mental "diseases," each one to be diagnosed by this and that physical sign or laboratory finding, and finally pigeon-holed in its special niche in some inadequate system of classification. The student is introduced to *states* rather than *diseases* (for instance, states of confusion and of delusion are described, but no account is given of such "entities" as alcoholic insanity or epilepsy), and as Dr. Yellowlees possesses the happy knack of presenting difficult psychological conceptions in a simple and pleasing way, the clinical aspect is never divorced from some kind of theoretical background. This is all as it should be in a book that is not intended to be a treatise on psychiatry, and the chief object of which is "to familiarize the student with the *symptoms* of mental disorder, to give him some idea of their *significance* and to indicate methods of *dealing with them*" (author's preface, but reviewer's italics). The author's task was thus by no means easy, and well has he acquitted himself of it.

It would be unfair, in a book of this kind, to expect too much in the way of exposition of standard psychopathological theories, but criticism might, perhaps, be offered on one or two points. The excellent distinction drawn between confusion and stupor might profitably have been followed up by reference to those milder cases termed "benign stupors" by Hoch, which offer a distinct problem in diagnosis. The primary sense of guilt in depression—to say nothing of its probable origin—is not sufficiently brought out in the discussion on p. 128; it would appear as though guilt resulted *from* delusions rather than *in* delusions. The equating of "paranoid temperament" with "shut-in personality," without reference to dementia præcox, might be misleading, as might also the sweeping statement on p. 161 that schizophrenia merely means "not manic-depressive." The term

*syntoid* is not as usually opposed to *schizoid* as the more common term *cycloid*, but the latter appears nowhere in the book.

On p. 190 the author does not make his meaning as clear as he does elsewhere, and there seems a danger of instilling into the student an erroneous notion that *all* repression is pathological. It is to be regretted, too, that the term "suppression" has not been used, defined and distinguished from repression; such an addition would have helped to make clearer still a proper understanding of what should and what should not be called repression. Symbolization is scantily described, the mention of regression is cursory, and the helpful conception of narcissism is omitted. Incidentally, one wonders whether the student will feel grateful for the advice to read McCurdy's *Psychology of Emotion*, admittedly one of the best but also one of the most arduous books on the subject; if McCurdy at all, why not his *Problems of Dynamic Psychology*?

Concerning the author's denial that any good could ever come from the psycho-analysis of psychotic cases, both the large amount of work being done in this direction (though not necessarily published) and the short length of time elapsed since such work was first initiated, seem to make such a stricture unfair and premature. Indeed one sometimes wonders why, in the last chapter, Dr. Yellowlees is at one moment so emphatically laudatory towards psycho-analysis, and the next seems to apologize for his praise or else belittles it. This chapter, "An Address on Psychology and Medicine," we would rather have seen omitted altogether; it is out of keeping with the rest of the book, and is apt to give an unfair impression not only of its subject-matter, but perhaps also of its author.

The above comments are not intended to detract in any way from the undoubted value of this volume. If they are made at all it is because so many works are not even good enough to be worth detailed criticism, and this book can still be whole-heartedly recommended to the class of readers for whom it is intended.

J. ERNEST NICOLE.

---

*Encephalitis Lethargica: Its Sequelæ and Treatment.* By CONSTANTINE VON ECONOMO. Translated and adapted by K. O. NEWMAN. Oxford University Press (Humphrey Milford), 1931. Pp. 216. With 21 illustrations. Price 18s. net.

Dr. Newman is to be congratulated on his very excellent translation of von Economo's monograph, written in 1929. He has succeeded in producing an eminently readable book, which should prove invaluable to all those interested in the subject of encephalitis.

Of special interest in Chapter I, which is a general introduction, is the section on the ætiology of the disease. While showing a leaning towards Levaditi's contention that the causal agent is identical with or allied to the herpes virus, von Economo expresses himself as strongly inclined to the view that in the study of encephalitis and influenza we have reached the limits of our present