

*Clinical Psychology*. By LOUIS E. BISCH, M.D. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Co., 1925. Demy 8vo. Pp. xiv + 346. 15s. net. (English agents: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, London.)

From the point of view of the contents the title of this book is somewhat unfortunately chosen, for, strictly speaking, their scope is neither clinical nor psychological. The author, however, disarms criticism by disavowing any claim to originality. It is a compilation from many sources which has developed into a book out of his lectures to students at Teachers' College and in the extension courses at Columbia University. The aim of the author has been "to give the teacher a working basis by means of which he or she may be able to recognize an atypical child in the class-room and to know how best to handle the situation." While useful as a compendium of information on different types of abnormal children and of methods of mental testing of varying utility to teachers, where the volume fails is in an over-elaboration of detail. Thus the synoptic table of classification alone covers seven pages, and more than a hundred pages of appendix are devoted to the relation of individual case-histories and test-results, which would probably give a clearer mental picture if they had been less strictly schematic. The scheme for a detailed examination of a child covers eighteen pages. This burden of detail makes the book resemble an over-burdened note-book without any evidence of the relative value of the information which it contains, and detracts from its value as a guide to the elementary school teacher.

G. A. AUDEN.

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*La Psychologie des Névroses (The Psychology of the Neuroses)*. Par le Dr. O.-L. FOREL. Geneva: Librairie Kundig, 1925. Crown 8vo. Pp. 258. Price 4 francs (Swiss).

The number of publications dealing with psychological problems is very considerable. The divergent views, the schools and the methods advocated vary to such an extent that orientation and discernment have inevitably suffered. In the present work the author has endeavoured to show precisely what are the criteria of the neuroses, what constitutes the dividing line between the neuroses and the normal on the one hand, and between the neuroses and the psychoses on the other. In order to define the position of the neuroses as part of a whole system, the first portion of the book is devoted to a consideration of the psychological and the psychopathological bases of mental medicine. It is obvious that, like many of his Swiss *confrères*, Dr. Forel is thoroughly conversant with the latest views on psychiatry in those countries adjoining his own. As some of these views are very extensively held on the continent, and as they differ in many respects from those held in this country, it may be of interest to the reader of this Journal to refer to them in some detail. It is pointed out that, for many clinicians, the dementia *præcox* group embraces at least three-quarters of all the psychoses whose anatomical substratum and true *ætiology* are but little understood. But as the author does not regard dementia

præcox (or, as he calls it, "precocious dementia") as either a dementia in the true sense of the word or necessarily precocious, he prefers and adopts "the more prudent and more significant term of 'schizophrenia' which was introduced by Bleuler."

Dr. Forel divides the whole system of mental pathology into three main groups: (1) The first or congenital dementia group includes idiocy and imbecility on the one hand, and oligophrenia on the other. The latter term comprises the lesser degrees of mental debility, moral insanity, some of the "born-criminals," etc. (2) The second group comprehends the psychoses proper, and is subdivided into (a) organic dementia, which includes general paralysis, arteriosclerotic dementia, senile dementia, certain sequelæ of encephalitis, epileptic dementia, etc.; (b) schizophrenia, which includes paraphrenia, paranoid dementia, periodic dementia of Kretschmer, hebephrenia, etc.; (c) toxic psychoses. It will be noticed that the clinical entity which Kraepelin has designated manic-depressive insanity does not find a place in this classification. The author would include mania, melancholia, and the circular types of insanity under the comprehensive term of "schizophrenia." (3) The third group is composed of the neuroses.

The author disagrees with those who would attribute the neuroses to any one particular cause. He holds that a neurosis is the result of a continuous conflict, that it is the fruit of numberless causes, of every interaction between the ego and its environment. He, however, says it is most important to remember that a hereditary morbid predisposition is present in every case. There is a tendency among certain observers (*e.g.*, Kretschmer and, more recently, Bleuler) to regard the psychoses as merely an aggravation of the neuroses. But Dr. Forel has not, so far, been converted to this view. According to him the most advanced neurosis differs entirely from a psychosis in spite of certain phenomena which may be present in both conditions (hallucinations, depression, etc.). A distinction is made between the neurotic and a neurosis; the former condition may persist throughout life without necessarily developing into a neurosis. In like manner the term "schizoid" is used to denote a person with a tendency to schizophrenia, but who may go through his existence without becoming insane.

Prominence is given to a character sketch of the neuroses as distinct from the schizoid, schizophrenic, and oligophrenic characters. The author shows how different clinicians have sought to trace the gradual development of the psychoses from their very commencement. Bleuler holds that the associations are primarily affected in schizophrenia. His ingenious hypothesis may be briefly summarized as follows: Normal thought is influenced or determined by orientation towards an object. The direction and the object towards which we tend are abstractions variously combined and complicated. When trouble occurs in the mechanism of recent associations and memories, the derangement caused is followed by a perturbation of notions of the object, and a corresponding modification of conduct. Sensations and perceptions are no longer taken into account by the reasoning powers; the latter

become impaired and create divergent notions, which are not corrected by later perceptions. The affective sphere intervenes in an imperious fashion, suppressing all that is undesirable. Henceforward continual gaps occur in logical sequence, which become filled in by delusional and illogical ideas of the same quality. Once this state is reached, the reactions of the patient to external influences, as well as to personal sentiments, become more pronounced, and create a series of secondary symptoms, all of which may be traced to the primary phenomenon.

There is a chapter on the psychological disorders of infancy and adolescence. Another chapter is devoted to the neuroses of adult life. A brief outline is given of psycho-analysis and of the other therapeutic methods. Seeing that he attaches so much importance to psychological causes, it is not surprising to find that Dr. Forel is a strong advocate of psychological treatment for the neuroses. He refuses to recognize any specific therapeutic method: "The therapist who applies the same so-called specific method to every case makes himself the slave of that method." He recognizes two main forms of treatment, *viz.*, psychological analysis and suggestion. For him the only rational form of psycho-therapy is that which selects from all the approved remedies the elements most suited to the individual. He says the majority of psychotherapists use analysis combined with suggestion, or—in the numerous cases where analysis is useless or impossible—suggestion with or without hypnosis.

NORMAN R. PHILLIPS.

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*La Psychanalyse, les Médecins, et le Public.* By Dr. HENRI FLOURNOY, Privat-docent à l'Université de Genève. Editions Forum, Neuchatel et Genève, 1924. Pp. 35.

This small pamphlet originated in a lecture given by the author in December, 1923, at Paris, and is designed by him to give, in the first part a brief general exposition of the fundamentals of Freud's psychology, in the second part a few general remarks on psycho-analysis as a scientific doctrine and as a method of treatment.

It fulfils these aims most admirably; it points out that psycho-analysis can be regarded as a method of psychological investigation, as a body of doctrine and hypothesis about mental activities, and as a method of treatment. It gives a brief and accurate account within its limited scope of what the method of psycho-analysis is, and of its foundation in the belief that instinct and emotion underlie all mental processes; that conflict between emotions, with repression of some of their manifestations and approval of others, give rise to various neurotic symptoms, and that a study of the dynamics of mental processes, giving due consideration to those hidden from consciousness, can lead to an understanding of mental conflicts and help in their resolution.

The author sums up very wisely the various forms of opposition and enthusiastic acceptance with which psycho-analysis has been received; he points out why the stressing of sexual trends is necessitated by their greater social suppression than holds for the