

is a comprehensive treatise which should always be at hand, but the greater proportion of it is also of interest to the profession generally, and especially those actively engaged in the care and treatment of the insane, to whom an up-to-date working knowledge of the parallel problem of mental deficiency is of great practical value, and essential to the proper carrying out of some aspects of their work.

J. R. LORD.

The Psychology of the Criminal. By M. HAMBLIN SMITH, M.D.
London: Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1922. Crown 8vo. Pp. 82.
Price 6s. net.

Dr. Hamblin Smith is exceptionally well qualified to write on the psychology of the criminal, as he has had twenty-three years' experience in local and convict prisons, and has made during that time a special study of the delinquent's mind.

Free will has no place in the author's psychology. He is a rigid determinist and views the criminal and his act from this view-point. "We cannot, in such a (scientific) scheme, recognise 'will' apart from individual volition. The phenomena of volition, like all natural phenomena, are subject to natural laws. And the phenomena of volition are always caused by their antecedents, heredity, education, and all the factors of previous experience (of course, the remembrance, or the prospect of the possibility of punishment may be one of the factors in the case)." The decision of the House of Lords in the *McNaughton* case is criticised. The statute of the State of New York which enacts that—"No act done by a person in a state of insanity can be punished as an offence" is preferred. Insanity has never been legally defined. The author tentatively proposes as a working rule the following: "No act done by a person in a state of insanity, or suffering from mental defect, to such a degree as to justify his being placed under care, treatment, and control, can be punished as an offence."

The second chapter deals with the physical examination of the offender, and shows how physical disability may be the antecedent of the criminal state of mind. The mental tests which the author has found most useful in the investigation of the offender's conscious mind are detailed.

A brief account of Freudian psychology is given in the third and fourth chapters. It is shown how repressed complexes arising from mental conflicts are often the sources of criminal acts. Emphasis is laid on the necessity of psycho-analysis in the investigation of the criminal's mind. Many of the author's cases have been benefited by this probing of the unconscious and the bringing to the conscious mind the complex or complexes which have obtained gratification in the particular criminal act. For recovery two conditions are necessary: (1) Desire on the part of the subject for a cure, (2) sufficient time. It is suggested that the places where delinquency can be prevented is in our schools and homes. A plea is made for the study of the unconscious mind by teachers. "It is for him (the teacher) to discover which of the child's tendencies are likely to obtain

expression in undesirable directions, and to enable the child to divert these tendencies into other directions." As the book is intended to be read by criminologists as well as by psychologists, the short description given of Freud's theories, although necessarily incomplete, is essential for the better understanding of human behaviour.

The author's conclusions are stated in the last chapter. To him the reaction of society towards crime should take the form of treatment, not punishment. The old theories of retaliatory and deterrent punishments are passing away. Dr. Hamblin Smith, of course, realises the necessity for imprisonment or institutional care, in some cases life-long, for criminals, but he wishes that every attempt should be made to induce the offender to feel that he is being regarded as a patient who is being treated and not as an outcast who is being punished. In this way we can pay our duty not only to society, but also to the individual criminal. In a former chapter the materialistic causation of criminality is discussed, the remedy in this case being a bodily one, but psycho-analysis is indicated where there is a psychogenic origin or an added psychogenic factor. Again and again stress is laid on the necessity for studying the individual offender. "Let us study him, putting aside all preconceived ideas. Let us try to discover why it is that he has failed to comply with society's laws, and whether we can do something to put him in the way of conforming more easily. . . . Let us try to discover in what direction a man can best be trained (and psychology will help us here), and then train him in that direction."

The author realises the difficulties of the ideal plan of examining fully each prisoner before trial. At least examination of as many as possible should be made. During imprisonment we should attempt to enable the criminal to adjust himself better to reality on his release. After-care is an obligation to society, and part of this after-care should consist of analysis in suitable cases.

The book will be sure to appeal to all those interested in the psychology of the criminal. The clear presentation of these views will do much to stimulate the efforts of those whose work deals with social reform, even though they may not wholly accept these deterministic doctrines. It will be noted with regret that the author has not more fully dealt with the aspect of punishment as a deterrent to crime nor with the effect of such punishment on the psychology of potential offenders. The author's work, with its adaptation of Freudian principles to the case of the criminal, is a great step in the solution of this problem, which at all times has been one of the chief cares of organised society.

C. W. FORSYTH.

Man's Unconscious Spirit—The Psycho-analysis of Spiritism. By WILFRID LAY, Ph.D. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd., 1921. Crown 8vo. Pp. 335. Price 10s. 6d. net.

If a prolific output is a sign of worth as well as of vitality then without a doubt psycho-analysis is of no little value! Yet it comes to memory that only too often the literature of a subject is in an almost inverse ratio to the amount of accurate knowledge. This does seem