

Part III.—Reviews.

Conceptual Thinking in Schizophrenia. By E. HANFMANN, Ph.D., and J. KASANIN, M.D. *Nervous and Mental Disease Monographs*, No. 67. New York, 1942. Pp. 115. Price \$2.50.

The writers set out to answer five specific questions. Their investigation of schizophrenia was based on the use of the well-known Vigotsky concept formation test. They found as answers to their five questions firstly that there were three levels of thinking shown—a primitive level, an intermediate level and a conceptual level. On the primitive level the performance was very concrete, on the conceptual level the performer showed that a classification was necessary. Secondly, the results given were found to depend very much on the educational level of the subjects; only the college educated performed on the highest conceptual level. Thirdly, the schizophrenic group were found to perform on a lower level than the normal group of similar education. The schizophrenic group seem to be unable to understand the principles of classification. Fourthly, the reduction of conceptual thinking in schizophrenics is present in some and absent in others. Fifthly, the performance of the organic brain disease group approaches the primitive level of performance.

Vigotsky's suggestion that conceptual thinking is impaired in schizophrenia is confirmed by the authors. The authors do not agree with Vigotsky that the highest conceptual level is reached by every normal adult; it is only reached by those with a college education.

A most interesting and readable book and a distinct contribution to our knowledge of conceptual thinking in schizophrenics.
G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Methods of Treatment in Post-encephalitic Parkinsonism. By H. D. VON WITZLEBEN. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1942. Pp. 164.

The author, who is an authority on the Bulgarian root treatment of Parkinsonism, has given us a very useful little work. Before discussing the actual treatment the writer considers the question of diagnosis briefly but accurately. This is a good chapter. After a brief survey of the various methods—chemical, serum, vaccine, surgical, fever, etc.—the author gives a very full account of alkaloid treatment, with particular reference to belladonna root. This treatment is described as the Bulgarian treatment according to Raef, Panegrossi and von Witzleben. The results from this treatment have been good and the author considers this the method of choice, but the best results are only obtained when physical exercises are combined with the alkaloid treatment.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Shock Treatment in Psychiatry. By L. JESSNER, M.D., Ph.D., and V. GERARD RYAN, M.D. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1941. Pp. xv + 149.

This small but very useful book is divided into three sections dealing with insulin therapy, metrazol convulsive therapy and electric convulsive therapy. Many critics of shock therapy in general will smile when they read the authors' note refusing to apologize for confining their attentions to these three methods, and neglecting others which have been used to "bedevil the psychotic into a state of normalcy." The book is really rather out of date now, although it was published in September, 1941. Metrazole or cardiazol therapy in this country has practically disappeared, and electric shock therapy has taken its place. This section is rather short, but this was perhaps to be expected; if the authors had waited another twelve months they would have been able to produce a much more useful section dealing with electric shock.

Nevertheless the book is a positive contribution to our works on psychiatric treatment.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

From Thirty Years with Freud. By THEODOR REIK. *Int. Psycho-Analytical Library*, No. 32. London: Hogarth Press, 1942. Pp. 214. Price 12s. 6d.

The title of the book is misleading, and those expecting a Boswellian record of the author's association with Freud may be a little disappointed. Actually it is a miscellany including a series of short critical articles on Freud's cultural monographs, "An Unknown Lecture of Freud's" with some additions by Reik, and a selection of little analytical essays by Reik dedicated to and sent to Freud on his successive birthdays.

The first forty pages are devoted to personal reminiscences, and the author has some interesting things to say about Freud's taste, views and methods. We learn, for instance, that he was an admirer of Anatole France, that he was not as pessimistic in his outlook towards humanity as some of his writings would incline us to believe, and that he considered himself more of a scientist than a therapist. Regarding this last he repeatedly said that three tasks were impossible—to govern, to educate, and to heal. There are a number of examples of his sly humour; the following is a good instance: Speaking of how poverty-stricken the poet's imagination really is, Freud comments, "Shakespeare, in *The Midsummer-Night's Dream*, has a woman fall in love with an ass. The audience wonders at that. And now, think of it, that a nation of sixty-five millions have . . ." He completed the sentence with a wave of the hand.

S. M. COLEMAN.