

Études de Psychiatrie Sociologique. Par HENRI DELAYE. Paris : A. Maloine et Fils, 1925. Crown 8vo. Pp. 152.

THIS small book is a popular account of the social difficulties in mild forms of mental disorder and have to be overcome if the latter are to receive suitable treatment. It consists of 31 papers on diverse subjects.

The first paper advocates the formation of a council of mental hygiene, to co-operate with those concerned in general hygiene in furthering the education of the general public and the medical profession as to the borderline of mental disorder and the problem of prophylaxis. In other papers the existing mental hospital conditions are severely criticized, and a sketch is given of the sort of out-patient clinics and mental hospitals for in-patients he thinks would meet the needs of the case. The author, however, believes that even psychopathic cases of a mild type suffer from abnormalities of the brain-tissue, rendering them less capable of enduring stress. He attributes most of these to syphilis, tuberculosis and alcohol, and seems to consider that prevention involves changes of the social order, notably religious influences, politics and education, upon which he holds extreme views. M. R. BARKAS.

Psychological Monographs: Studies in Psychology. No. IX and No. X. Edited by CARL E. SEASHORE. Princeton, N.J., and Albany, N.Y. University of Iowa, 1926. Price \$6.50 each.

A considerable proportion of the articles in these two volumes consists in studies of sound, vocal or instrumental in origin. The first, on "Technique for Objective Studies of the Vocal Art," describes an apparatus for recording sound-waves photographically. The sounds from a gramophone record can of course be recorded in the same way, the advantage being that the voice of an artiste can thus be subjected to analysis without the disturbance that might ensue from his being aware that his voice was being scientifically scrutinized. For comparison, Metfessel also used Seashore's tonoscope, which depends in principle on the movements of an acetylene-gas flame produced by sound-waves impinging on a diaphragm. Both methods proved satisfactory for the investigation of pitch. The second article, on the "Variability of Consecutive Wave-lengths in Vocal and Instrumental Sounds," after describing a technique, comes to the conclusion (among others) that trained voices are distinguished from the untrained mainly by their greater periodicity of pitch-fluctuation. The third article on "The Vibrato" finds that the vibrato is a periodic phenomenon of three variables, *viz.*, pitch, time and intensity, and that it is produced chiefly by trained vocalists. Incidentally it is revealed that musical critics differ in detecting the occurrence of the vibrato, and in assessing its value. Because of this uncertainty, and indeed of the general ignorance, hitherto prevailing, of the nature of vibrato, the author was unable to proceed in the meantime with his psychological inquiry into the influence of emotions on it.