

Part II.—Reviews.

Fifth Report for 1926 of the Inspectors of Lunatics, Northern Ireland.
London: H.M. Stationery Office.

The period under review is the year 1926, at the end of which there was a total of 4,665 patients—the males exceeding the females by 295. The total shows an increase of 165 as compared with that of the year 1925.

The admissions to the six district mental hospitals amounted to 1,000—530 males and 470 females—an increase of 233.

The discharged patients numbered 497, of whom 317 had recovered, giving a percentage of recoveries of 31·7 calculated upon the admissions. This shows a decrease of 6·5%.

Two patients escaped and 363 died, the death-rate, estimated upon the daily average number in residence, being 8·7%—an increase of 1%.

The insane accommodated in workhouses and district hospitals were 383 in number, an increase of 23, so that the figures are practically those of 1924, a considerable reduction having occurred in the intervening year.

The financial side of the Report shows a total expenditure on maintenance of £206,184 17s. 8d. The average cost per head was £42 6s. 9d., if one excludes the cost of loan repayments.

Judging from the separate reports upon each institution, it is apparent that upon the whole they are in a satisfactory condition. It is somewhat regrettable to note, however, that in one hospital there are no facilities for preparing nurses for the examinations of the Association or any other authority.

Psychopathology, Its Development and its Place in Medicine. By
BERNARD HART, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: Cambridge University Press, 1927. Demy 8vo. Pp. 153. Price 7s. 6d. net.

In the present flux of psychological knowledge and theory, a book such as this is as welcome as firm ground in a quicksand. Dr. Hart was one of the first physicians in this country to appreciate the significance and value of what one may term the modern approach to the problem of mental disorder. In exploring eagerly the new avenues he brought with him a sound practical experience of psychiatry, and consequently he is pre-eminently entitled to give a considered opinion upon much which is to-day the subject of fruitless discussion. He defines "psychopathology" as an explanation of mental disorder by psychological conceptions, and he gives

at considerable length the argument that such an explanation is capable of forming a part of scientific knowledge. It is possible that in future times surprise will be shown at the necessity for touching upon such an argument in a work of this kind. At the present day, however, psycho-pathology is sadly in need of the formal statement of its position in the world of science, and in dealing with it Dr. Hart shows his grasp of the essentials of his subject. He makes it perfectly clear that in common with the purely conceptual basis of the physical science of the present day, the modern psycho-pathologist need not be timid of dealing with the conceptions which constitute the material side of his study. As Karl Pearson has pointed out, science is characterized not by the nature of the facts with which it deals, but by the method of attack which consists of the collection of facts, their classification, and then the construction of conceptions which serve to explain them. Dr. Hart maintains that there is nothing in this definition to exclude from the field of science, mental, as opposed to material facts, nor psychological as opposed to other conceptions. As he says, there are many phenomena for which at the present time no other science than psychology can supply a feasible explanation, and others in which psychological conceptions are more helpful and illuminating than physiological. It may some day be possible to reduce the conceptions of psychology to those of physiology, or to the still wider fields of chemistry and physics, but this desirable consummation is brought no nearer by pretending that it has been attained. In the meantime, much help may be derived from psychology provided that the methods of science are rigidly applied.

From this basis Dr. Hart proceeds to review critically the explanatory conceptions of the various schools of modern psycho-pathology. He finds that the conceptions of the Suggestionists and Persuasionists are nullified by their breadth and scope, and he passes to a most interesting examination of the dynamic schools as typified by Freud and Jung.

It is almost impossible to epitomize a closely reasoned argument, and the book must be read carefully in its entirety. He points out the fundamental importance of the fact that a dynamical psychology is free from the limitations of the older descriptive schools in that it may attack the questions of "Why" instead of dealing merely with the "How" in the phenomena with which it deals. He envisages the real difficulty of its acceptance as a branch of science as not lying in the "flimsy abstractions" of mental notions as opposed to such "solid realities" as "electrons or ether waves," but as depending upon the fact that in conceiving the sequence of thought and behaviour in man as a result of the interplay of instinctive forces acting according to precisely definable laws, there is introduced a teleological aspect and the element of "Purpose" which has no correlate or parallel in physics.

No one can take exception to the extremely restrained and yet relentless logic which follows. Most praiseworthy may it be said, there is none of the heat of battle, nor is there that assumption of pontifical superiority which one is accustomed to find in modern

work for or against the analytical methods. On the contrary, the hypotheses are stated with conspicuous clarity and delineated almost with the love of the faithful. One reads between the lines a note of disappointment and regret. It is enough to state here that the fundamental basis for Dr. Hart's scepticism is his distrust of the strict scientific validity of the psycho-analytic method. As he says, what can be the scientific value of a method which, applied in all good faith, leads to such fundamentally divergent results as those obtained by Freud, Jung and Adler, to say nothing of the lesser lights.

Hart agrees with Dr. T. W. Mitchell that the pessimism which is so obvious in Freud's *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* is the inevitable outcome of a belief in a mechanistic theory of life, and he feels that the criticism which will finally invalidate Freud's work will come, not from a denial of his deductions, but from a doubt as to his fundamental assumption that all the phenomena of life and mind can be interpreted in terms of the physical sciences. He points out that Jung definitely abandons science as it is incapable of dealing adequately with the problems of psychology.

Dr. Hart does not explicitly say what *he* thinks, and it is a pity that he does not do so. No doubt he finds himself in as great a quandary as most of us, yet he leaves us with the feeling that however chaotic the field may appear at present, progress is being made. Good will ultimately come, he says, if we are patient with one another, and continue to work out our own separate lines of thought. This is wise and good counsel at the moment, for argument and difference are essential to the final classification of thought. Though we may share Dr. Hart's regrets at the failure of some of our brightest hopes of the modern psychology, yet by its knowledge must and will accrue, and we shall get a few steps nearer to that understanding of the problems of life for which all intelligent beings seem instinctively to strive.

Incorporated with this volume is an essay on the "Psychology of Rumour," in which Dr. Hart treats of the value of evidence—a matter which has no little bearing on the methods of psycho-analysis. He gives us also a very clear and satisfying description of the various methods of psycho-therapy.

In our opinion this work from the pen of Dr. Hart will constitute one of the most important landmarks in psycho-pathology for many years to come.

THOMAS BEATON.

Mental Handicaps in Art. By THEO. B. HYSLOP, M.D., F.R.S.E.
London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1927. F'cap 8vo. Pp.
xxxiii + 98. Price 3s. 6d.

Mental Handicaps in Golf. As above, but pp. xv + 112.

These two little volumes, in size adapted to the pocket, are a further proof of the versatility of their author.

They are knowledgeable little books. Dr. Hyslop is a practical exponent of both art and golf. He has suffered for and delighted