

unless there is a phlegmatic youngest son present to act as mediator. His taste in literature is equally determined; the works of Shakespeare and Dickens are anathema; the authors are eldest sons!

Should a specific case fail to fit in with his theory, Mr. Peters has a number of provisos up his sleeve. The "only child", who does not run true to type, must have mixed promiscuously with other children during early infancy. Another case is found to be ill-conditioned on account of the late arrival of the next offspring. A third is discovered to have been unduly harassed by a dominating father, probably himself an eldest son.

The theory leads to some intriguing corollaries. As has already been indicated, marriages may be made in heaven, but their durability depends upon the nursery experience. Communism is doomed to failure; disappearance of the monogamian family would rapidly lead to botched introverted and extraverted types. For a dinner-party to go well it is essential that the introverts should be suitably leavened with a sprinkling of younger sons. Should a treatise meet with an unfavourable review, the author would be well advised to make discreet inquiries regarding the critic's position relative to his siblings; it will certainly be found that he is incompatible with the author.

In support of his theory, Mr. Peters makes great play with the disastrous matrimonial ventures of various distinguished men. In each case he triumphantly points out that these unfortunate souls have mated with anti-theoretical sibling types. His point would have been strengthened if he could have shown us a second series of great men, but this time happily married within his compatible groups. As it is, one is left with a haunting suspicion that maybe it is genius itself, not sibling irreconcilability, which has made for these unhappy marriages.

Syllogistic explanations of mental ill-health and panaceas for its relief abound. To the reviewer, Mr. Peters's theory seems no better nor worse than many another; it certainly contains a modicum of truth. It has been well said: "Contemple la Vérité blanche que tu désirais connaître. Et sache qu'elle est faite de toutes les vérités contraires, en même façon que de toutes les couleurs est composé le blanc." The book can be confidently recommended as a healthy corrective for all enthusiasts. It is without doubt one of the most remarkable offshoots of the Jungian school of psychology.

S. M. COLEMAN.

**Personality.** By GORDON W. ALLPORT. London: Constable & Co., 1938. Pp. xiv + 588. Price 16s.

This is an excellent book. The author sets out to expound the psychological study of personality, and divides the subject into five sections, dealing with the approach to personality, the development of personality, the structure of personality, the analysis of personality, and finally, understanding personality.

The first section dealing with the approach to personality summarizes the various definitions of personality. The author's own definition is—"Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his unique adjustments to his environment". This contrasts with Woodworth's "Personality refers not to any particular sort of activity, such as talking, remembering, thinking or loving, but an individual can reveal his personality in the way he does any of these things". Character is regarded as an ethical concept and is dispensed with as a psychological

term. Temperament is defined as the characteristic phenomena of an individual's emotional nature, including his susceptibility to emotional stimulation, his customary strength and speed of response, the quality of his prevailing mood, and all peculiarities of fluctuation and intensity of mood. The author wisely points out the age-factor influence in Kretschmer's types and its influence on schizophrenia and manic-depressive insanity statistics.

The section dealing with the development of personality gives a detailed account of the growth of personality from its beginnings, dealing with motivation, differentiation, integration and maturation. The development of the self deals with feelings of inferiority and compensation.

Psycho-analytic theory is treated briefly. We cannot agree with the statement that "psycho-analytic concepts are drawn exclusively from neurotic and pathological material", nor even with "the truth is that it deals only with a fraction of the phenomena encountered in a comprehensive study of the subject". Psycho-analysis, on the contrary, deals with the whole personality. The author does not like the psycho-analytic use of the mechanism of sublimation. "One cannot sublimate starvation nor a distended sex-gland,"—who would try to sublimate hunger?

We doubt if Leo Tolstoy could by any stretch of the imagination be regarded as a "thoroughly mature personality"—he was in many ways distinctly immature. At the same time we should hardly like to regard Nietzsche's life-history as pivoted upon "the infection by a prostitute", or Maupassant's either for that matter. We should like to see statistical evidence produced to show that "within the home many critical experiences may occur to redirect the whole course of development". What home has not had hundreds of "critical experiences?"

The author does not like the Spearman approach to personality by means of factor analysis; he prefers his trait-conception; in other words he prefers the search for "individual" traits to that for "universal" factors. Every mature personality (whatever "mature" may mean) is built on a foundation of central traits which can easily be identified; this is supported by a galaxy of less evident secondary traits.

Individual traits "are always biophysical in nature, concrete and personal in their organization, contemporaneous in their effect, capable of functional autonomy, but not structurally independent of one another".

The analysis of personality is indeed a complicated business, and the author presents us with a table of fifty-one avenues of approach, ending up in a case-study. The qualifications for a good judge of people are: (1) Maturity, with wide experience of people of all social levels; (2) similarity to the group to be judged; this, of course, is simply a specialized form of (1); (3) intelligence; (4) insight or understanding—here the author does pay a tribute to psycho-analysis in pointing out that before the analyst can unravel the knots of other personalities he must first disentangle his own; (5) complexity—possibly there are psychiatrists who cure by a combination of "the torturous reconstruction of personality and those who cure by radiant suggestion"; (6) detachment—the best judges appear to be hard to judge; (7) æsthetic attitude—enormously enhances the judge's skill; (8) social intelligence—"often lacking in the novelist and the artist", "leads to social adjustment, but not necessarily to profound understanding". It is statistically doubtful if women are better judges of people than men; if there is superiority it is only slight.

The breadth of knowledge shown in this book is extraordinary, and we would say to the reader, having read it once, "read it again, only more slowly".

The author very wisely says, "The truth of the matter is that the total organization of personality is still a new and poorly formulated problem in psychology. It is a many-sided issue and the whole solution yet lies in the future".

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

**The Pituitary Gland.** Vol. XVII of the Research Publications of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company, 1938. Pp. xxiv + 764. 160 illustrations. Price 45s.

This large volume contains the papers read at the meeting of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases, held in New York on December 28th and 29th, 1936. As we have said in reviewing a previous volume in this series, it is a great pity that such a long interval is allowed to elapse before publication. Amongst the references are papers published in 1937—a fact that rather spoils the value of the book as a record of a scientific meeting.

The treatment of the subject-matter is very full and most of the papers are very well illustrated. The book is divided into three sections, dealing with anatomy, physiology and general considerations. The first chapter by the late Frederick Tilney is, like all his anatomical writings, a great joy to read. The rest of the book calls for little comment, and some of the papers are very short. Moreover, a great deal of matter has been published on the pituitary since these papers were read. The book is easy to read, and is a sound statement of our knowledge two years ago.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

**A Text-Book of Neuro-Radiology.** By C. P. G. WAKELEY and A. ORLEY. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1938. Pp. xiv + 336. Figs. 229. Price 25s.

Wakeley and Orley have supplied us with a very good book on a difficult subject. The work is perhaps of limited interest to a psychiatrist. The sections dealing with skull injuries, ventriculography and encephalography are of particular interest to us. The chapter on ventriculography is extraordinarily well furnished with diagrams and illustrative details. We would, however, have liked to see a much stronger warning against the dangers in the use of thorotrast. It is undoubtedly a very dangerous substance—its powerful radio-activity may prove very irritating. It tends to accumulate in the dependent portions of the ventricles, and adhesions and granulomatous tissue have been found as a result of its action. The chapter on encephalography, although very much shorter, is well done. There is an excellent bibliography, but a rather shiny-surfaced paper has been used, even allowing for the great number of illustrations.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

**The Hypothalamus: Morphological, Functional, Clinical and Surgical Aspects.** By W. E. LE GROS CLARK, J. BEATTIE, G. RIDDOCH and N. M. DOTT. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 1938. Pp. xii + 211. Figs. 104. Price 12s. 6d.

The contents of this book are based on a series of lectures delivered under the auspices of the William Henderson Trust in the Anatomy Theatre at Edinburgh University in October, 1936. The lectures have as far as possible been brought up to date—March, 1938. Le Gros Clark deals in the first place with the morphological aspects of the hypothalamus, then Beattie with the