

*A Present-day Conception of Mental Disorders.* By CHARLES MACFIE CAMPBELL. Harvard University Press (Oxford University Press), 1924. Foolsap 8vo. Pp. 54. Price 4s. 6d. net.

This little book contains one of the public lectures delivered at the Medical School of Harvard University.

The author, after explaining the nature of the disorder of the mental mechanism as it is manifested in the minor psychoses, proceeds by an analogous method to the major and acute psychoses. His method is so free from technical jargon that his aim to educate the public to regard disorders of the mind simply and directly as human ailments to be treated and investigated from their onset in the same considerate manner as other ailments, should gain for him, it is hoped, a wide circle of readers.

H. de M. A.

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*The Mind in Disease: Some Conditions Cured by Suggestion.* By M. P. LEAHY, B.A., M.B. London: Wm. Heinemann (Medical Books), 1926. Crown 8vo. Pp. 172. Price 6s.

The first part of the title of this book is misleading, as the book contains very little psychopathology, but much suggestion therapy.

In the physical treatment of disease simple remedies, such as purges, general or local sedatives, fomentations, incisions, far outnumber major surgical operations. Similarly in psychotherapy simple procedures, such as are included under the name of "suggestion treatment," far outnumber the occasions calling for minute psychological investigation or psycho-analysis. Thus Dr. Leahy's book, dealing as it does with simpler methods of psychotherapy, will appeal to a relatively wide circle of medical readers, and will afford to general practitioners a good insight into the operation of the mental factor in treating disease. Dr. Leahy's technique will be also of great interest and assistance to psychotherapists generally.

Dr. Leahy sets forth what suggestion treatment can and cannot do, and he points out that not only can it cure certain illnesses, but it can help greatly in many other illnesses, and ought to be freely combined with other forms of treatment. He relates the technique which he has applied successfully to his own illnesses as well as to those of others; to illnesses mainly mental, to those mainly physical, and to those in which the mental and physical factors are of equal importance. The technique is a combination of various well-known methods of suggestion therapy. He uses hypnosis in order to confine the patient's attention to the ideas intended to effect the cure, and also persuasion to impress the fact that the cure follows the operation of imagination and will-power. He completes the cure by auto-suggestion to render the patient independent and self-reliant.

The clinical cases Dr. Leahy presents will be found useful to quote to patients when treating them along the lines of "suggestion" and "persuasion."

M. A. ARCHDALE.