

Psychopathic States. By D. K. HENDERSON, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, University of Edinburgh. Thomas W. Salmon Memorial Lectures. Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 1939. Pp. 178. Price 8s. 6d.

This book is a critical review of various aspects of those states which cannot be classed as neuroses, psychoses or even mental deficiency, but which nevertheless make those concerned misfits who fail to adjust properly to their environment and who are liable to cause trouble by various asocial acts.

Some of this group were originally classified under the heading of "moral insanity", and later as "moral defective", and include those who, showing little intellectual disability, nevertheless are incapable of conducting themselves with decency and propriety in the business of life.

In the course of his description the author uses and quotes many high-sounding words and phrases, such as "idiosyncratic" and "psychotoid", while "Watsonian behaviourism" might suggest the conduct at a famous school as well as that of a school of thought.

He describes as types

- (1) The predominantly aggressive.
- (2) The predominantly passive or inadequate.
- (3) The predominantly creative.

He describes these, and discusses the relationship of alcoholism and epilepsy to them, and also the effect of cyclothymic and schizoid states. The problem of the sexual pervert is also referred to.

Among the creative types, Joan of Arc and Lawrence of Arabia are reviewed as variants of the psychopathic state.

A plea for social rehabilitation for all cases requiring assistance is made. The author advocates a psycho-biological approach on the lines of Adolf Meyer, quoting that one must not be a mere psychotherapist but also a physician—as one never knows what complications may be found.

Emphasizing that the psychopath is the most disruptive element in society, the author suggests the following method of resocializing these people:

- (1) A medical service, which reaches every member of the community.
- (2) A psychobiology which is generally applicable.
- (3) An education system correlated with the development of spontaneity and working in harmony with preventive medicine.

It is a book written to a theme, but it gives constructive ideas for dealing with a real problem, and with mental health in general. A. A. W. PETRIE.

Report on Cardiazol Treatment and on the Present Application of Hypoglycæmic Shock Treatment in Schizophrenia. By W. REES THOMAS, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M., and ISABEL G. H. WILSON, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. H.M. Stationery Office.

This report forms a companion to the previous report by Dr. I. G. H. Wilson on Hypoglycæmic Shock. It is the result of critical observation of the work of others, and has the advantage that the authors are impartial in arriving at their conclusions.

The technique of cardiazol and insulin are reviewed, also the effects of a combination of these drugs. A useful review as to theories of causation is given, emphasis being laid on the effects of anoxia and alteration of the tissue