

There is no doubt about the advantage this method has of presenting subjects on which there is no general agreement, and especially in regard to one so elusive as the mind. The question "What is mind?" has been asked and answered since the dawn of intellect down to now, yet the problem remains inscrutable, and such is the impression which this book gives.

The chief value of the book is that it conveys a warning to the student not to be too dogmatic about the nature of mind, and impresses on him that every conception of it has its uses and serves to illustrate and illuminate some department of knowledge. These conceptions are of many kinds, and the principal ones are dealt with in this book. Prof. McDowall, who suggested the scheme of lectures, is to be congratulated on his selection of view-points, and on his securing men of light and learning as expositors of the various subjects and their bearing on the main question.

Though we should like to see this book in the hands of every intelligent member of the public, we are more impressed with its value to students of psychology and psychiatry. Physiologists and medical students particularly would benefit from its study, if only as an antidote to the necessarily materialistic atmosphere in which they work.

J. R. LORD.

---

*Nursing Mental and Nervous Diseases: From the View-point of Biology, Psychology and Neurology.* A Text-book for Use in Schools for the Training of Nurses. By ALBERT COULSON BUCKLEY, M.D. London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1927. Demy 8vo. Pp. 312. 57 illustrations. Price 12s. 6d.

This is a notable addition to Lippincott's excellent series of nursing manuals, and the subject-matter has been in a great measure selected in conformity with the standard curriculum for training schools of America as revised in 1926. It is not likely, however, to be so widely read or so popular as the author's *The Basis of Psychiatry* (1920), for our Association's *Handbook for Mental Nurses* specially meets the requirements of the syllabuses of the mental nursing examinations of this country, except, perhaps, of those now being conducted by some of the Universities.

As regards psychiatry and psychology it is a shortened and simplified edition of the author's text-book adapted to the needs of the nurse. There is, however, much new writing. Theories and unsettled questions are avoided, and to the description of each mental disorder there is added a section dealing with "nursing care." In addition there is a special chapter devoted to mental nursing, special nursing procedures, occupational therapy, psychotherapy, psycho-analysis, suggestion and mental hygiene.

Nervous diseases form the subject of the last part of the book, in which the chapters are on the same plan as those dealing with mental diseases.

The Association's *Handbook* was criticized before the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorders as being too advanced, and

containing much that it is not essential for a nurse to know. We demurred at this because the book was designedly on a high plane, for the very good reasons given in the report of the Committee which drew up the book under the chairmanship of Dr. Bedford Pierce. Though the book contains all the information necessary to pass the mental nursing examinations, it is also designed to be a complete guide to the nurse in her subsequent professional career. We are bound to say that had Dr. Buckley's nursing text-book been the nursing handbook authorized by the Association there would have been some grounds for the Royal Commission's criticisms.

For nurses contemplating taking higher certificates or University diplomas the American manual would no doubt prove as acceptable as *The Basis of Psychiatry* has been found in the case of the medical student.

We have read the book before us with the greatest interest and regard it as an appropriate completion of the author's former work, and we recommend it to our readers.

In this country we rely more on training and experience than theoretical knowledge, which is only a strain on the memory until the examination is passed.

J. R. LORD.

---

*The Development of the Psycho-Analytical Theory of the Psychoses, 1893-1926.* By JOHN RICKMAN, M.A., M.D. (Supplement No. 2 to the *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1928. Size 10½ in. by 7 in. Pp. iii + 90, and 17 pages of Bibliography. Price 6s. net.

To review this publication would mean a critical survey of the whole field of psycho-analytic teaching in regard to psychopathology, such is the ground covered by the author. The clarity of Dr. Rickman's presentation, his avoidance of the verbosity and obscurity which characterizes many writings on the subject, and the absence of jargon which, sooner or later, attaches itself to a new department of knowledge, renders this book highly intelligible, and this, together with its comprehensiveness, renders it especially valuable to the student of psycho-pathology.

Every psychiatrist, whether he is a believer or not in Freudian teaching, should possess himself of a copy for his information, and even if only for use as a work of reference.

It covers the essential matter of many a heavy volume and its value is enhanced by a bibliography, the author has been at some pains to complete from the extensive literature which has accumulated since psycho-analysis first found a place in psychiatry in the early nineties.

At the end is a table of psychological mechanisms showing their relationship to mental disorders drawn up in 1926 by the author. Two columns of it are of particular interest—those relating to (1) defence and (2) clinical syndrome.

J. R. LORD.