

injecting clear water instead of morphia. Or there is the method by psychic substitution which consists in suggesting to the patient new and harmless acts as derivatives for his symptoms. Bernheim admits that psychoneuroses may yet remain rebellious to all suggestive treatment, for the patient's own auto-suggestion may be too powerful, and, moreover, there are many psycho-neurotic troubles which from the outset are associated with underlying diseases. But in most cases of simple psycho-neurosis, he maintains, psycho-therapy remains efficacious, and is a rational medication which the physician must not neglect.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

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*Mental Conflicts and Misconduct.* By WILLIAM HEALY. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1917. Pp. 330, 8vo.

Dr. Healy, Director of the Psychopathic Institute of the Chicago Juvenile Court, and author of the important work on *The Individual Delinquent*, reviewed in the Journal two years ago, deals here with some aspects of the fundamental problem of the causation of misconduct. He is mainly concerned with cases in which hidden early experiences of inner conflict lead to misconduct often having no apparent connection with the conflict. In this investigation the author is careful to explain that he is tied to no one psychological school, and though he has learnt much from various writers on psycho-analysis he does not practise, or in his own work find necessary, any strict technical methods of psycho-analysis, and prefers to use the simpler and more general expression, "mental analysis." He regards such investigations as very necessary in view of the decay of the old ideas of punishment, and the recognised need of inducing in the offender self-directed tendencies towards more desirable behaviour. From that point of view the results here recorded are highly promising and suggestive.

In his first thousand cases of youthful recidivists Healy found seventy-three instances where mental conflict was a main cause of the delinquency; in the second series of a thousand there were seventy-four. He regards this as much below the real number, for he had not then realised the importance of such conflicts. Even the incomplete 7 per cent. are not, however, a negligible number. Moreover, the significant fact emerges that they embrace some of the most important cases of delinquency, though at the same time Healy is inclined to think that "individuals particularly well-endowed in emotional qualities and finer feelings are the more prone to suffer from mental repression and conflicts." These cases are also usually about the average in mental ability.

A great variety of misconduct is found to arise on the basis of mental conflict, ranging from the sustained bad behaviour of childhood to deeds of actual crime, including obstinacy, destructiveness, truancy, vagrancy, stealing (with pathological stealing and so-called "kleptomania"), forgery, sexual offences, injury to others. It is remarkable that some of these misdoers are not carrying out their own keenest desires; their misdeeds are, as it were, "forced by something in themselves, not of themselves"; they involve no pleasure. It may be noted that Healy gives no special attention to sexual offences, as these have

been much studied by other workers, but he remarks that he has been greatly surprised to find how much delinquency of various types had its beginning in unfortunate sex knowledge, which came into the mental field as a psychic shock, producing emotional disturbance; this is well illustrated by many of the cases here brought forward.

In successive chapters are reviewed, with numerous illustrative cases, conflicts accompanied by obsessive imagery, conflicts causing impelling ideas, criminal careers developed by conflicts, conflicts arising from sex experiences, conflicts arising from secret sex knowledge, conflicts concerning parentage (as when the child discovers that he is illegitimate, or that an alleged parent is not the real parent), conflicts in abnormal mental types, conflicts resulting in stealing (with instructive cases of "kleptomania," showing that the real concealed source of the delinquency often has no obvious connection with the nature of the delinquent act), conflicts resulting in running away, conflicts resulting in other delinquencies.

The author concludes that mental conflicts do not imply a peculiar constitution; they commonly produce misbehaviour in individuals who prove themselves by examination and history to have, apparently, normally stable nervous systems. Nor is there any good evidence of hereditary basis, though, like offenders in general, these cases come from stock on the average poorer than that of non-offenders. The age of onset is youthful, and probably never later than early adolescence. But the conflict may lie dormant, or repressed and unrevealed, for months or years. It must not, however, be supposed that these cases are usually of moody, depressed, or "shut-in" types; they are often frank, open, cheerful, and, outside their conflicts, healthy-minded. Still they are sensitive, and tend to respond peculiarly to certain experiences, though not hypersensitive in other directions. No race or nationality is specially affected, and in mental ability these cases are far above the delinquent average. Mental tests have failed to be of diagnostic value. The author believes that some cases of so-called moral imbecility and constitutional immorality are only instances of misconduct reactions to mental conflicts. The prognosis is often good, and the results have sometimes been remarkably satisfactory. In the study of mental conflicts we have a scientific method of approaching certain problems of misconduct, Dr. Healy concludes, with a prospect of rendering real service to humanity.

This simple, lucid, and systematic study of a new case-group is the work of one who must be accounted a master in the field of criminology, and cannot fail to be helpful to all whose business it is to explore and redirect abnormal human conduct.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

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*Manuel de Psychiatrie.* Par le Docteur J. ROGUES DE FURSAC, ancien chef de clinique à la Faculté de Médecine, médecin en chef des Asiles de la Seine, expert près les Tribunaux. 1 vol. in-16, de la Collection médicale, 509 pp., cinquième édition, revue et augmentée (Librairie Félix Alcan). 7 fr. 70 net

When a text-book has reached its fifth edition the reviewer has an easy task. The public to whom it appeals has given a verdict so