

Mind and Deity. By JOHN LAIRD, LL.D., F.B.A. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1941. Pp. 322. Price 10s. 6d.

According to the "Brains Trust" there are certain questions that should not be asked, for the very good reason that with the knowledge at their disposal they have not the necessary information to provide the answer. The questions raised in this series of Gifford lectures belong to this class. Here are a few examples: Is reality mind-constituted? What is mind? Is the Deity a personal or an impersonal principle? Is God omnipotent, and if so is evil consistent with a reality that is righteous altogether? Has everything that exists a value?

Prof. Laird tackles these knotty problems with much erudition and at great length. Unfortunately the conclusions reached have a certain uniformity and may disappoint the eager seeker after truth. Prof. Laird is usually forced to admit that while the particular hypothesis under discussion is not altogether incredible, it is certainly not proven.

S. M. COLEMAN.

Psychology, Psychotherapy and Evangelicalism. By J. G. MCKENZIE, M.A., B.D., D.D. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1940. Pp. xiii + 236. Price 10s. 6d.

According to the author the Evangelical Christian is distinguished from other types not by a specific doctrine but by a special attitude towards religion. This difference is compared with the psychoneurotic who has an intellectual knowledge of the mechanism of his symptoms, and the patient who really feels into and abreacts to the interpretations given him.

Much space is devoted to a study of conversion. From the psychological point of view conversion is contrasted with the psycho-neurosis as being a healthy solution to psychological conflict, the neurosis being an acceptance of failure. According to James conversion is always a sudden and dramatic episode often associated with psychopathic phenomena, as in the case of St. Paul and St. Augustine. Prof. McKenzie holds that from the church's standpoint, many of the most valuable conversions have been slow and gradual processes of intellectual re-orientation.

It is clear that the author has been much influenced by the theories of Jung and William Brown. He holds that all successful psychotherapy should give rise to a "spiritual rebirth," a form of conversion to a new moral viewpoint. On the other hand it is stated that there is no evidence for the belief that "ethics can be derived from biology"; that the conscience is no more than the "introjected" voice of the dominating father and that behaviour is pre-determined by heredity and circumstance.

Finally the author puts in a strong plea for training in psychological methods both for clergymen and school-teachers.

The book is likely to find more favour with analytical psychologists than psycho-analysts.

S. M. COLEMAN.

The Early Treatment of Nervous and Mental Disorders. By W. LINDESAY NEUSTATTER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd., 1940. Pp. xii + 379. Price 15s.

This is a disappointing book in many ways. A great deal of space is wasted on etiology and early diagnosis. It is no reply to this criticism to say the doctor has to learn this; so he has, but he also has to learn chemistry and physics and then materia medica before he can carry out much treatment.