

reference in this connection to Flechsig's myelination diagrams would have roused the student's curiosity to useful purpose. (Incidentally, a hint as to the neatest and easiest way of stripping a fresh hemisphere would have been a useful addition; through inattention to the arterial supply this little procedure is often bungled, and not by beginners only.)

Dr. Stoddart's account of the ætiology and pathogenesis of general paralysis is directed mainly to such considerations as he can adduce to emphasise the importance of the part played by the spirochæte. Of the difficulties of attributing the disease entirely to an infection, of whatever sort, he points out only that there is no record of any asylum pathologist or attendant on the insane having contracted general paralysis from one of his patients.

But the book as a whole is by no means one-sided; and as Dr. Stoddart has been at great pains to bring it once more in many ways up to date, it has a wide sphere of assured usefulness.

SYDNEY J. COLE.

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*Military Psychiatry in Peace and War.* By C. STANFORD READ, M.D., Lond., late Major R.A.M.C., Officer in Charge, "D" Block, Netley. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., 1920. Pp. vi+168. Price 10s. 6d. net.

As medical officer of "D" Block, Netley, Dr. Stanford Read had an exceptionally wide experience of acute mental cases. All the psychotic cases occurring in the oversea troops passed through this hospital before their disposal in various directions, and Dr. Read states that from August, 1914, to May, 1919, the admissions amounted to 12,320, of which 331 were officers and 11,989 N.C.Os. and men. This work is chiefly based upon the study of 3,000 consecutive cases which were admitted during the year 1917, and since the author states, "I have followed up their careers nearly twelve months later by visiting the various war mental hospitals to which they had been transferred, and have made statistical notes thereon," it is apparent that this volume is the product of very arduous work and research undertaken at a time when the ordinary official routine must in itself have been exceptionally heavy. The fact that Dr. Read has by this investigation been in a position to supply data as to the end-results of his cases considerably enhances the value of his book, especially as a similar opportunity is unlikely to occur again for some time—or at least we may venture to hope so.

The opening chapter in which the author deals with the psychology of the soldier indicates the line of approach which he finds most illuminating in the study of his clinical material. He furnishes an excellent study of the influence of the war situation, with its new demands and stressful experiences, on the personality of the new recruit fresh from civilian life, and throughout the book his cases are consistently presented in terms of reaction to environment, and he endeavours to explain the various symptom-pictures—apart from the frankly organic psychoses—as the product of mental conflicts and psychogenetic factors. He develops the question of psychogenesis at some length in relation to the "exhaustion psychoses," and he suggests

that the "stress and strain" factor—mental and physical exhaustion—will not produce mental symptoms apart from other factors being involved. He says, "Continued war experience has only served to undermine more and more the position of the so-called exhaustion psychoses in psychiatric nosology," and he indicates that while some confusional states are toxic in origin, and associated with malaria, sunstroke or dysentery, "many confusions are undoubtedly psychological in origin, such as those we see so commonly associated with mental deficiency. Maladaptable mentalities, when called upon more or less suddenly to face difficult and new situations, will naturally react in a confusional way from conflict of impulses. At times what is taken for confusion is really a dream state resulting from an inherent desire to negate reality." In dealing with paranoid states and alcoholic psychoses, Dr. Read finds himself in agreement with the Freudian viewpoint in relation to these types of disorder.

In discussing the wider aspects of the treatment of mental disorder in the light of war experience we are glad that Dr. Read does not feel called upon to make comparisons between the recovery-rate in war mental hospitals and that of civilian asylums. Comparisons of this kind are apt to be made, and they are not only unfair, but they are necessarily unscientific. The clinical material in war hospitals was of necessity much more favourable in respect to recovery than that found in civilian hospitals, especially as many war cases were purely reactive and the product of unusual stress, the removal of which readily resulted in recovery.

We can thoroughly recommend this book, and while some of its readers may not find themselves in complete agreement with all the views of the author, they will certainly find in it much information of value, and a particularly clear and concise presentation of the various forms of mental disorder from the psychogenetic viewpoint.

H. DEVINE.

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*Some Adaptive Difficulties found in School Children.* By ESTHER L. RICHARDS, M.D. (*Mental Hygiene*, April, 1920.)

Articles by various medical writers have appeared of late putting forward a claim on the part of psychiatrists to exercise a wholesale direction over the education of the young. Some of these articles, being largely compounded of old familiar truths more or less emasculated by translation into modern psychologists' slang, together with some assumptions of doubtful validity and a surfeit of advice to educationists about things they understand at least as well as their would-be instructors, appear ill calculated to persuade the public to receive the psychiatrist into their homes or their schools, there perhaps to exhale "that most poisonous and degrading of all atmospheres—a medical atmosphere." Many of the failures and breakdowns of adult life, no doubt, originate in a misguided upbringing in childhood, and this the psychiatrist has particular reason to know; but supposing he is let loose in our schools, will it tend to the general good?

Dr. Richards' modest paper is welcome, because it goes some little way towards answering this question in terms of practical experience.