

A final chapter is given to therapeutic consideration, including psychotherapy. A copious bibliography of well over two hundred references terminates this interesting monograph.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

Pönologische Betrachtungen (Penological Reflections). By A. AMSCHL. Monograph No. 6 in *Abhandlungen aus dem juristisch-medizinischen Grenzgebiete*. Vienna, 1927. Pp. 80.

This is the sixth monograph in this very interesting series of forensic medical essays. The various chapters deal with crime and punishment; legislation, classification of crimes; system of and means of punishment; imprisonment; infliction of punishment in convict prisons; management of penitentiary establishments; increase of punishment and apportionment of punishment; ignominious punishment; safety measures.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

Okkultismus und Rechtspflege (Occultism and the Administration of Justice). By A. PILCZ. Monograph No. 7 in *Abhandlungen aus dem juristisch-medizinischen Grenzgebiete*. Vienna, 1927. Pp. 48.

This is the seventh in this series of forensic medical essays. The first part deals with the so-called occult phenomena in general. Telepathy and clairvoyance are discussed, and it is shown that there is not sufficient scientific evidence for their existence. Chiromancy, graphology and thought-reading are considered in turn with similar conclusions. The phenomena of spiritualism are examined and the author arrives at the conclusion that wherever the control arrangements were sufficiently adequate the wonderful phenomena recorded by previous witnesses either did not appear or the medium was caught cheating. With reference to the fact that some eminent men of science like Hyrtl, Pasteur, Pernter and many others believed in occult phenomena the author says: "We have here, so to speak, two *toto cælo* different psychic personalities in the same individual; on the one side the sober man of science following the laws of logic, living in the real world, thinking and acting adequately; on the other side the blindly credulous fanatic, shutting himself up deliberately from all logic, devoid of all critical faculty, but full of faith. We encounter here psychological mechanisms, known to the psychologist as "supervalent" ideational complexes. Where strongly affectively toned combinations of ideas are effective, where the emotional life is decisive, the purely reasoning activities of the psyche are stifled and the intellect dispossessed of its primacy by affectivity. . . . Occultism is a yearning of faith, a "Weltanschauung," disguised religiosity, that is, longing for the supernatural, unsatisfied by naked intellectualism." The second part of the essay discusses occultism in its relation to criminal and civil law, facts of fraud, evidence in questions of occultism, employment of telepaths and clairvoyants in criminal investigations, injuries to health, etc. There is also a short appendix on dowsing and a bibliography.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.