

Wensday, an a grate numbre of diferrent artikles are two be soled hear—pianoes, sowing machines,' etc." In arithmetic the tests cover the mechanical application of processes, mental arithmetic, selection of rules and powers of reasoning. In English they show the powers of understanding the meaning of words, spelling, the construction of sentences, history and geography. Tests of this type are very helpful alternatives and may have a clinical value for the estimation of backwardness in individual children, since exact norms are given, but for this purpose the user of the tests must be careful to adhere exactly to the full instructions for their application if he is to utilize the results in a comparative manner.

E. SHRUBSALL.

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*Sex Hygiene.* By OLIVER WALDO LINCOLN. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 1925. Pp. vi + 33. 1s. net.

From the scientific point of view this little book does not merit the slightest attention. But productions of this kind are of importance, for the harm which they do is only too well known to every practising psychiatrist. The book is mainly concerned with the alleged evil results of masturbation. All kinds of ill-effects are stated to follow this practice, and descriptions are given (including one of "neurasthenia") which would terrify a boy or girl who had indulged even occasionally in masturbation. For the author draws no distinction between the occasional and the excessive practice of that habit. It is talk of this kind which has done so much harm. The book asserts that masturbation is practised to a far less extent by females than by males. All the available scientific evidence directly contradicts this view. The author appears to have an obsession on the subject, and he attributes the alleged deterioration of the British race chiefly to this cause. If a hundredth part of what he asserts about masturbation were true, the whole human race would have ceased to exist. The book is written in the style of fifty years ago. Even a "lady medical practitioner" is not to be trusted to give sex instruction to school girls, unless accompanied by the school nurse, or by "another suitable lady of high character." Parents are advised to impart sex teaching to their children by means of illustrations drawn from botany. In this connection the author actually suggests that the terms "lady flower" and "gentleman flower" are to be preferred to those of "female" and "male." It is difficult to write with patience of such absurdities as these.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

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*The Women Characters in Richard Wagner.* By LOUISE BRINK, Ph.D. New York and Washington: Nervous and Mental Diseases Publishing Co., 1924. (Monograph Series No. 37.) Med. 8vo. Pp. xv + 125. Price \$2.00.

When religious apologists, unable to stomach the sensuality of the "Song of Songs," gave this love poem a spiritual interpretation in terms of their own orthodoxy, they were doing what all critics of