

Part II.—Reviews.

Aids to Psychiatry. By W. S. DAWSON, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Fifth edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1944. Pp. viii + 306. Price 6s.

This excellent little "cram" book, now in its fifth edition, has an assured place in the library of the student psychiatrist. In the preface it is stated that the book has undergone an extensive revision, and that many sections have been rewritten.

In the chapter on treatment there should be a section on the modern physical methods, with some reference to technical details. In this edition there are very brief references to these treatments in chapters on specific psychoses. The result is that a reader is liable to gain the impression that such treatments are specific for certain mental disorders. Space could be found for such a section by compressing or eliminating other matter—for instance, the long paragraph on the use of the now unprocurable sulphonal. On case-taking some will think that the method of examination is too suggestive of faculty psychology, and that the scheme advocated by Henderson and Gillespie has many practical advantages. Reference to psychopathy is to be found under moral defect. The older term has much in its favour; it is almost a definition.

S. M. COLEMAN.

The Shaping of Psychiatry by War. By JOHN RAWLINGS REES, M.D. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 1945. Pp. 158. Price 10s. 6d.

The first section reviews the valuable contribution that psychiatry has made to the efficiency of that magnificent fighting machine, the British Army. It has helped to put the right man in the right place, and to keep the wrong person out of the wrong job. The majority will agree with Brigadier Rees that in the society of to-morrow the frontiers of psychiatry should be extended, and that much that has been learnt under stress of war should be incorporated into civilian practice. The more cautious may think that the author's planning goes too far, for, to understand Brigadier Rees' outlook, it should be realized that "Brave New World" is not a satire, and there is internal evidence to suggest that "Erewhon" also should be taken seriously.

As I read the author's conception of the "way ahead" towards the ideal state, every citizen will ultimately have learnt to be "psychiatric conscious." He will have learnt that only by the grace of God and the aid of the state physicians can he remain stable and be guided into the right vocation. The psychiatrists themselves, with their associated workers, would be in the service of the state as a kind of OGPU or Gestapo. Examinations and tests would make it certain that each citizen is directed into the occupation for which the psychiatric team think he is fitted. This would be from top to bottom, and we are especially advised that aspiring politicians should have the "once over" by the experts. Even in international affairs it is recommended that the mental specialist should put in his oar. Presumably he would sit behind the chair of state, periodically nudging the minister, just to remind him that the destructive urge or self-aggrandisement are either infantile reactions or evidence of serious psychopathy.

Granting the value of modern tests, etc., it has yet to be proved that they are as all-embracing as the experience of Balzac's great city, wasteful and haphazard as it may be. From the purely individual point of view most would prefer to plunge into that experience with illusions, to sink or swim, even if these are ultimately lost.

Owing to the very small amount of psychosis in the British Army, Brigadier Rees considers that this is a matter of low priority as compared with the neuroses, which are abundant. It is not suggested that this is due to the efficiency of those who confine their activities "within four walls." On the contrary these are constantly exhorted to extend their frontiers. However, within those "four walls" conditions have sadly deteriorated and, if the author's priorities are taken seriously, it may be that in World War III psychosis will be a major problem in the Forces.

There is a proverb—but of course anything so traditional as the proverb is anathema to the "planner"—that a shoe-maker should stick to his last.

S. M. COLEMAN.

Conceptions et Traitement des États Neurasthéniques. By J. TINEL.
Paris: Librairie J. B. Baillière et Fils, 1941. Pp. 64. Price not stated.

Dr. Tinel is of the opinion that there should be a place for neurasthenia as a distinct clinical entity. The descriptive section is clearly set out, the fundamental or primary symptoms, asthenia, depression, hyperemotivity and obsessive rumination, being studied first. The secondary symptoms cover practically the whole field of the psychoneuroses and perhaps beyond. There are chapters on diagnosis and on treatment which call for no special comment.

The section on psychopathology is interesting. The writer, though apparently unaware of the Ross controversy in this country, comes down heavily on the side of his adversaries, and this despite the fact that he himself is a disciple of Déjerine. Clinical experience has forced him to regard neurasthenia as a minor psychosis, only quantitatively different from the melancholic episode. For Tinel neurasthenia is a reaction to an emotional shock or to prolonged emotional strain in a predisposed person. The recovered neurasthenic is now conditioned to react in the same way to minimal emotional experiences. Later these recurrent attacks may take place spontaneously, be more severe and so approximate to melancholia. More speculatively, it is suggested that the acquired characteristic, recurrent neurasthenia, will provide an hereditary predisposition to melancholia in the next generation. It would seem that a large proportion of Tinel's neurasthenics would be described as cases of reactive depression in this country.

S. M. COLEMAN.

Rebel Without a Cause : The Hypno-analysis of a Criminal Psychopath.
By ROBERT M. LINDNER, Ph.D. London: Wm. Heinemann, Ltd.,
1945. Pp. xii + 260. Price 21s.

This case-report of a criminal psychopath treated by hypno-analysis will well repay careful study. The bulk of the book is devoted to a verbatim report of the 46 analytical sessions. It is an exceptionally complete record of an analytical procedure, provides an exceptional opportunity of gaining insight into the mind of the psychopath, and should, therefore, be of interest to many besides those engaged in the study of the criminal's mentality. An introductory essay on the whole problem of psychopathy includes a striking picture of the salient features of this clinical entity. Psychopathy is ultimately defined as "a disorder of behaviour which effects the relationship of the individual to the social setting." It would seem that a number of other conditions besides psychopathy come within the purview of this definition, and that the author has been no more successful than others before him in setting the limits of psychopathy.

Turning to the psychopathology, it is concluded that there is a constitutional basis, but that a series of psychic trauma, starting in infancy, are also necessary in order to establish the antisocial pattern of behaviour. The author finds that the psychopath is always fixated at a pregenital level. However, it is