

To say that the editing of the Jackson writings has been a labour of love for Dr. James Taylor is to say that the publication is thoroughly well done. Its value is enhanced by an excellent index.

It is most earnestly to be hoped that this and the succeeding volume will be widely read among psychiatrists.

F. L. GOLLA.

The Concentric Method in the Diagnosis of Psychoneurotics. By M. LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., 1931. Large crown 8vo. Pp. xii + 217. Price 10s. 6d.

This book consists of a series of lectures delivered at La Pitié Hospital, Paris, in 1927, and owing to the wide range and somewhat disconnected nature of the different lectures it is difficult to give a fair summary. The common "*point d'appuis*" upon which the lectures rest is the "concentric method" elaborated by the author. This is a method which enables the symptoms and signs of any given patient to be grouped so as to afford a bird's eye view of the case. It recognizes all the different aspects of the personality, including the purely mental at one extreme and the purely physical at the other.

In this method five "zones" are recognized, each with its own order of symptoms. We have (1) the *psychic* zone, in which such mental symptoms as anxiety, phobias and obsessions occur. (2) The *nervous* zone, with its neurological disturbances, whether of the somatic system or of the vegetative, including particularly such phenomena as vagotonia and sympatheticotonia. (3) The *endocrine* zone, in which there are two aspects for consideration, the humoral and the morphological. (4) The *visceral* zone, in which are to be found physiological and anatomo-pathological disorders of recent origin. (5) The *morbific nucleus*, which includes hereditary and developmental factors, coupled with certain old-standing diseases.

This method of grouping the findings in any particular case is decidedly attractive, and reminds one of the Kretschmerian and Italian schools, but the exposition of it in this book is disappointing. Perhaps the French passion for description, as compared with interpretation and explanation, is in part responsible for this, as also the fact that the cases are too sketchily presented to be convincing. More important yet is the absence of theoretical background. The psychology is scanty and hazy, and will doubtless appear very disconnected to students of McDougall, McCurdy and Stout in this country, or of Koehler and Koffka abroad. It is, for instance, difficult to make out the author's views in respect of emotion and instinct, though he says a good deal about them. The psychopathology is in no happier position, for there is little or no attempt at correlating the findings with the views of Freud, Adler or Jung. The name of neither Adler nor Jung appears in the index, and the only reference to Jung's work is in connection with the association

test, but unfortunately this is not linked with Jung's name at all, but is described as belonging particularly to the *Freudian* method—a statement that will surprise many psycho-analysts. Nevertheless, the book contains much of interest, both on the clinical side, and with reference to such matters as asceticism, mysticism and demoniacal possession, which form the basis of some of the best chapters.

The difficulty of obtaining a clear impression of the author's views is considerably enhanced by the poor quality of the translation. For example, on p. 10 reference is made to a "button psychosis." This is likely to prove rather meaningless to such English readers as may have forgotten that the French "bouton" also means "bud." Nor is "revindication" a word in common English use. More important still is the rendering by their English equivalents of terms the meanings of which are not at all the same in the two languages. Thus, on p. 161 "delirious" is misleading, as "*délire*" in French does not connote incoherence, but delusions; instance the "*délire chronique à évolution systématique*" of Magnan, which corresponds to our systematized delusional insanity. In short, the translation is full of pitfalls for the unwary, and is likely to emphasize the impression of diffuseness and discontinuity which the very nature of the material must necessarily create.

J. ERNEST NICOLE.

The Physical Basis of Personality. By CHARLES R. STOCKARD.
London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1931. Demy 8vo.
Pp. xviii + 320. Figs. 73. Price 12s. 6d. net.

Since psychiatrists usually restrict the term "personality" to the mental constitution of the individual, it is necessary to state, in order to avoid misunderstanding, that in this book it has a much wider connotation. The author includes under the word "personality" not chiefly the mental, but mainly the physical condition, and the scope of this book would be more fully expressed and appreciated by some such title as "The genetic and physical environmental factors which influence the development of the individual constitution." It need hardly be said that this is a subject upon which the author is highly qualified to write, for he is well known as Professor of Anatomy and Director of the Experimental Morphology Farm in the Cornell University Medical College, and as the author of many valuable contributions to our knowledge of these subjects. One naturally looks forward to reading a book by Stockard on such a subject with great expectations, and it may at once be said that these are fully realized. The book is well and pleasantly written, it is entirely devoid of dogmatic statements, and it forms an admirable and lucid exposition of the subject with which it deals. It is, moreover, plentifully illustrated, and contains an extensive bibliography.

After giving an account of the constitution of the germ-cell, of the mechanism of inheritance and the theory of the gene, the author discusses the various changes which may occur during the