

greatest professional knowledge, aided by the most intimate acquaintance with the facts of the patient's life, are of little avail in the understanding of his point of view or in helping him to modify it. The patient cannot be hustled or dominated, and is not favourably affected by any awe he may have of the physician. The author's remarks on this and related points form a real introduction to the practice of psychotherapy—much more valuable than the study of a few theoretical mental mechanisms.

A book that should be in the library of every mental hospital.

IAN D. SUTTIE.

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*Principles of Experimental Psychology.* By HENRI PIÉRON. Translated by J. B. MINER. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 1929. Pp. viii + 190. Price 10s. 6d.

A book by Prof. Piéron is sure to be interesting and instructive, and this one fulfils expectations. The title is somewhat misleading, for although the results of experimental psychology have been fully utilized, they are presented in the elucidation of a modified behaviourism. Piéron defines psychology as the science of "*comportement*," in agreement with Pierre Janet. He does not go the full length of Watson, Bechterew or Pavlov, since consciousness is not entirely eliminated in his presentation. Of course, one can never experience any psychic processes but one's own, yet the description to me by my observer of his psychic experience is more than a mere "verbal response." His record is a series of symbols for his psychic processes which make me understand those processes in terms of my own and so, as an experimentalist, I am not dealing with "verbal responses," but with psychic processes.

Three orders of reactions—reflex, affective and perceptive, corresponding respectively to the bulbo-medullary, the thalamic-striate and the cortical levels—are discussed. Although the terms "pleasure-unpleasure" are used for the affective elements, they are not used consistently, and we repeatedly find the terms "pleasure-pain" instead, which tends to give rise to some misunderstanding. A point upon which most psychologists will not agree with Piéron is that he throws together feeling (pleasure-unpleasure) and conation, and treats them as "affects." A source of confusion is the translation of the French "*sentiment*" as "sentiment," where one may gather from the context that "feeling-tone" is probably meant.

After the sections on "Reaction Processes and Forms of Behaviour," and "Affective Reactions and the Orientation of Conduct," we come to the third section on "Perceptive Reactions and the Acquisition of Experience." The treatment of attention and sensory accommodation is excellent. Psychic experience is, to begin with, syncretic (in Renan's and Claparède's sense), and from the global and confused mass details are analysed and subsequently synthesized. Thus experience is acquired. Attention and sensory

accommodation, perceptive reactions and the laws of sensation are given in outline. Space and time are given a chapter; but in discussing the perception of the former Piéron seems to have overlooked mentioning the kinæsthetic sensations. A chapter on the congenital equipment and mnemonic acquisition, the fixation of memories, concludes the third part of the book.

The part on Association and Memory is exceedingly interesting, but the attempt to confine the term "memory" to the recall of events which it is not possible to repeat or pass through again, and to regard all acquisitions which are perfected by repetition as "habits," cannot, in our view, be recommended. The degrees of mental efficiency, incitement and fatigue, voluntary activity and social behaviour are succinctly, yet adequately discussed.

The concluding part of the book is entitled "Mental Stages and Types," and the author describes mental evolution and levels of development, the differentiation of natural types, sex and race, the hierarchic arrangement of individuals and judgments of value, will and intelligence, the analytic classification of individuals—type, character, mental profile.

The treatment of so vast a subject in so small a compass has necessarily to be dogmatic, but no one will complain of this when it comes from so undogmatic a pen as that of Prof. Piéron. It is difficult to say for whom the book is most suitable. The psychologist will find in a nutshell an indication of the author's views, and the general reader will gather a fair and reliable idea of the extent of the field and of the results and aims of psychology.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

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*Eidetic Imagery and Typological Methods of Investigation.* By E. R. JAENSCH. Translated by OSCAR OESER. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., 1930. Medium 8vo. Pp. 136. Price 7s. 6d.

It is claimed for this book that it is the first authoritative statement on the methods and results of investigating eidetic (subjective optical) images that has appeared in English. An eidetic image is a psychical experience intermediate between an after-image and a memory image; it is positive, and resembles an optical perception without being liable to be confounded with it. Such images are frequent in early childhood growing rarer with the approach of puberty; they are scarce in adults, but are sometimes met with in later years. It has been claimed that from an eidetic image of a picture a child has been able to count the number of buttons on a man's coat or spell out a long word of a foreign language. Eidetic images play an important part in the development of space perception. In some cases they are more rigid, in others more labile, and this difference corresponds to somatic characteristics. Jaensch, therefore, distinguishes two distinct types, which he terms the T or