

present edition has been thoroughly revised in the light of more recent experience. It should prove a valuable handbook for medical officers called upon to treat civilians and soldiers during the present war, and can be especially recommended to those engaged upon war-time psychotherapy.

S. M. COLEMAN.

Shell-Shock in France 1914–1918. By CHARLES S. MYERS, C.B.E., F.R.S. Cambridge University Press, 1940. Pp. xii + 146. Price 4s. 6d.

This little volume contains short chapters on the causes, symptoms and treatment of "shell-shock" cases and also on their disposal both in France and in this country during the last war. While condemning the term "shell-shock," as a "singularly ill-chosen term," it seems curious that the author should attempt to perpetuate it in the title to his book. Dr. Myers is fairly catholic in his methods of treatment of the psycho-neuroses. For cases of war hysteria, he favours explanation, persuasion and re-education, though admitting that certain cases do better with deep analysis, hypnosis or strong suggestion with the aid of ether or electrical stimulation.

Unfortunately the objective value of Dr. Myers' book is to some extent marred by the constant and unwarranted intrusion of irrelevant subjective matter. It is admitted that the preparation of this work brought to the surface certain unpleasant personal difficulties and private animosities of those times, but there seems to be no valid reason why references to these should not have been kept out of the printed text. Exhibiting a mechanism well known to psychiatrists, the author is pleased to contrast the self-seeking and jealousy of the Harley Street specialist with the mild scholar from the "quieter backwaters of a University town."

S. M. COLEMAN.

A Psychologist's War-time Diary. By ANTHONY WEYMOUTH. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1940. Pp. 300. Price 12s. 6d.

Journalist, novelist, Harley Street doctor, psychologist and wireless commentator—the author, in diary form, tells us something of the people with whom he has made contact during the first six months of the war. In his varied capacities, he has had the opportunity of hearing the views and the experiences of all classes and types, ranging from Cardinal Hinsley to George Robey, and from Lord Horder to Bernard Shaw. There are numerous amusing anecdotes and interesting side-lights on war-conditions. Interspersed are little chats on popular psychological topics, such as sleep and dreams, memory, heredity, "shell-shock," the psychology of charm, etc. It is clear that it is the journalist and commentator, not the doctor and psychologist, who are responsible for this book.

S. M. COLEMAN.

New Facts on Mental Disorders. By NEIL A. DAYTON, M.D. Baltimore: C. C. Thomas, 1940. Pp. xxxiv + 486. Price \$4.50.

The problem of mental disorders is tackled as a single problem and from a statistical point of view based on an analysis of some 90,000 admissions to mental hospitals. The work is really the result of the labours of a team of investigators. A number of interesting facts are revealed. There was a definite increase in the incidence of mental illness for some time before the depression of 1929–30 started, and this did not increase during the depression.