

hard on Jesuit missionaries in far Fiji—if, indeed, the Fijian religion is a lower form. In this, and his reference to spiritualism immediately following, we again discern the undue importance of the mere symptom—the accident of the disorder. And so we take leave to doubt if Dr. Stoddart really is what he asserts—“a curse to posterity”; for ourselves we deny the soft impeachment.

When he writes of indoxyl being found in the urine of melancholiacs, Dr. Stoddart should explain that it is a mere concomitant of constipation, and that chemical symptom is, therefore, of no significance relative to the mental condition. His experience of veronal is singularly unfortunate; it has hitherto escaped our notice that veronal induces vomiting.

Dr. Stoddart records an extraordinarily low mortality in acute delirious mania; only 25 *per cent.* of his cases died of exhaustion, and apparently only one became permanently weak minded, but those “clinical entities” are as evasive as their arithmetic, *e.g.*, on p. 254, Kraepelin is quoted: “Of katatoniacs 86 *per cent.* reach extreme dementia, 27 *per cent.* are partially demented, and 13 *per cent.* recover at least temporarily,” making the Teutonic percentage 126.

We have given considerable space to this notice of Dr. Stoddart's work, because it raises numerous questions of importance at the present time, questions which incite discussion; and because it is a record of personal opinions which have been frankly stated after years of clinical observation; and because these opinions call for our consideration whether we assent to them or no. In short, the book arrests attention.

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*Outlines of Psychiatry.* By WILLIAM A. WHITE. 8vo. New York, 1907. Price \$2.

Professor White, of the Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D.C., issues this guide to his students in order to enable them to follow his lectures more easily and satisfactorily. A brief psychological introduction is followed by his definition of insanity: “A disorder of the mind due to disease of the brain, manifesting itself by a more or less prolonged departure from the individual's usual manner of thinking, feeling, and acting, and resulting in a lessened capacity for adaptation to the environment.” Proceeding to the consideration of classification, causes, and treatment, Professor White sets forth his teaching after the manner of Kraepelin. It is another instance of America swallowing Kraepelin whole, as a compatriot has observed. Strange words are freely used—“autochthonous,” “haptic,” “carphologia,” “aprosxia” are among the gems, and the student will have to distinguish between “active” and “passive algolagnia” before he concludes his course. Your reviewer copies them with wondering awe. Can it be that America will really assimilate them?

As to the matter of the book, considered from the student's point of view there can be no doubt it is well and clearly set out. Professor White has given a wide and comprehensive account of his subject, especially impartial in his short discussion of the causes of insanity,

and unequivocal in his clinical observations. We congratulate him on his excellent chapter dealing with the examination of the insane, and feel that the whole book appeals to a much wider circle than that which originally benefited by it. Notwithstanding brevity, it will be found especially useful to those who desire to know what the new classification means and who find more formidable works and lengthy monographs impossible. The printer has done his part admirably.

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*Mental Deficiency (Amentia)*. By A. F. TREGOLD, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Illust., pp. 17 + 391. 8vo. London, 1908. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This work comes at an opportune time when mental defect is the subject of serious discussion in view of the recently issued Reports of the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded. Dr. Tregold's experience as Research Scholar in the Claybury Laboratory has stood him in good stead in the preparation of this admirable book, which shows his intimate knowledge of the pathological, clinical, and social aspects of his study.

Beginning with a general consideration of that mental condition which signifies a failure in normal development, Dr. Tregold discusses incidence, causation, pathology, classification, physical and mental characteristics, clinical varieties, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. The result is both interesting and important, and, as the work is fully illustrated by drawings, photographs, and charts, there can be no doubt that it will be generally regarded as indispensable as a trustworthy guide to the most recent scientific and sociological findings in this department of humane activity. It is noteworthy that the author attributes to the neuropathic heredity the principal rôle in the causation of amentia, and that he has founded his classification of cases on that of Dr. Ireland. Like the great majority of recent authorities he believes that injuries at birth are not important causal factors.

It seems scarcely necessary to give a long account of a book of this kind, which should be read and referred to by all who are called into relation with the mentally defective. Several of the chapters are specially valuable; for instance, those dealing with pathology, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and training. With a vivid recollection of former work in this field, Dr. Tregold impresses us most favourably.

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*Britain's Blot—Recidivism, Habitual Criminality, and Habitual Petty Delinquency*. By J. F. SUTHERLAND, M.D. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1908. Price 3s. net.

The Deputy Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland has issued this book, which is the outcome of four articles published in this Journal, and it is certainly desirable that the experience of so many years in lunacy, inebriety, and delinquency should be thus rendered easily accessible. There has been an unfortunate lack of contributions dealing with these problems in this country of late years. Penology is not