

## Part II.—Reviews.

**Conscience and Reason.** By GRACE STUART. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1951. Pp. 220. Price 15s.

This book is an interesting and orderly discourse of an intelligent person, reflecting the modern intellectual attitude to her subject; even though lost, she still holds to her faith in conscious reason and the "ego."

Sin is taboo to the religious, but the idea of sin is taboo to Mrs. Stuart. She suggests the concept of sin should be replaced by the concept of error.

Conscience is regarded in terms of the super-ego described by Freud and as "our old enemy, the super-ego."

Mrs. Stuart is quite against such antitheses as good and evil—such antitheses are an error, except of course the antithesis of Conscience and Reason.

Mrs. Stuart does not like the dualism of "St. George and the Dragon"; she does not appreciate fairy-tales or allegory. We must be mature. "The dragon is no longer to be slain, but to be humanized."

Search is made for "the civilizing factor," and the ability of Love to help the community solve its problems is stressed. Indeed, the outstanding impression given by the book is not only of brave reason but also of good conscience.

C. E. H. TURNER.

**Problem Families in Bristol.** By R. C. WOFINDEN, M.D., D.P.H. The Eugenics Society and Cassell & Company, Ltd., 1950. Pp. 60. Price 2s. 6d.

This excellent and informative little book in paper covers is the record of a Pilot Inquiry into problem families.

Apparently there are 80,000 problem families in England and Wales, containing approximately 300,000 dirty, satisfactorily healthy and not unhappy children. The mother is usually in poor health; the father does not go to work; the birth-rate is high, but not so the death-rate. They live in squalor.

A "whole army of welfare workers" assist these families in an un-coordinated way. "It is suggested that a small committee of officers should be set up with representatives from the health, housing, welfare, education and the children's departments—one or two officers of voluntary organizations could be co-opted." The responsibility for the work should be put on the welfare officer.

Parents brought before the courts for child neglect should be sent with their children to rehabilitation centres. Here the women learn to cook and sew and even to enjoy life. And here a weekly party of games "of the musical chair variety" has even "encouraged some of the somewhat drab mothers to tidy themselves up, to use make-up, even—the greatest triumph of all—it induced some to take out the curling pins which were perpetually worn, apparently against some great occasion which never arrived."

"Whatever long-term policy is adopted, the fundamental need is to make these individuals aware of their responsibilities and to help them to help themselves."

The root causes of the problem are not yet discovered.

The main object of this and other like inquiries was to try and standardize a suitable procedure of investigation, and to prepare the way for an authoritative committee such as an Inter-departmental Committee.

C. E. H. TURNER.

**The Yearbook of Psychoanalysis.** Volume 7, 1951. Managing Editor, SANDOR LORAND, M.D. New York: International University Press, Inc. Pp. 271. Price \$7.50.

When Freud broke through the barrier of the Unconscious Mind he found much that he admitted he could not explain. As for an hour, day after day, his patients lay on the analytic couch saying whatever came into their mind, he did not always know what they were talking about and neither did they. But this did not daunt Freud, who was like a general exploiting a "break through" without stopping to consolidate, nor heeding overmuch the chaos. His followers do likewise; and this