

Mind and Deity. By JOHN LAIRD, LL.D., F.B.A. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1941. Pp. 322. Price 10s. 6d.

According to the "Brains Trust" there are certain questions that should not be asked, for the very good reason that with the knowledge at their disposal they have not the necessary information to provide the answer. The questions raised in this series of Gifford lectures belong to this class. Here are a few examples: Is reality mind-constituted? What is mind? Is the Deity a personal or an impersonal principle? Is God omnipotent, and if so is evil consistent with a reality that is righteous altogether? Has everything that exists a value?

Prof. Laird tackles these knotty problems with much erudition and at great length. Unfortunately the conclusions reached have a certain uniformity and may disappoint the eager seeker after truth. Prof. Laird is usually forced to admit that while the particular hypothesis under discussion is not altogether incredible, it is certainly not proven.

S. M. COLEMAN.

Psychology, Psychotherapy and Evangelicalism. By J. G. MCKENZIE, M.A., B.D., D.D. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1940. Pp. xiii + 236. Price 10s. 6d.

According to the author the Evangelical Christian is distinguished from other types not by a specific doctrine but by a special attitude towards religion. This difference is compared with the psychoneurotic who has an intellectual knowledge of the mechanism of his symptoms, and the patient who really feels into and abreacts to the interpretations given him.

Much space is devoted to a study of conversion. From the psychological point of view conversion is contrasted with the psycho-neurosis as being a healthy solution to psychological conflict, the neurosis being an acceptance of failure. According to James conversion is always a sudden and dramatic episode often associated with psychopathic phenomena, as in the case of St. Paul and St. Augustine. Prof. McKenzie holds that from the church's standpoint, many of the most valuable conversions have been slow and gradual processes of intellectual re-orientation.

It is clear that the author has been much influenced by the theories of Jung and William Brown. He holds that all successful psychotherapy should give rise to a "spiritual rebirth," a form of conversion to a new moral viewpoint. On the other hand it is stated that there is no evidence for the belief that "ethics can be derived from biology"; that the conscience is no more than the "introjected" voice of the dominating father and that behaviour is pre-determined by heredity and circumstance.

Finally the author puts in a strong plea for training in psychological methods both for clergymen and school-teachers.

The book is likely to find more favour with analytical psychologists than psycho-analysts.

S. M. COLEMAN.

The Early Treatment of Nervous and Mental Disorders. By W. LINDESAY NEUSTATTER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd., 1940. Pp. xii + 379. Price 15s.

This is a disappointing book in many ways. A great deal of space is wasted on etiology and early diagnosis. It is no reply to this criticism to say the doctor has to learn this; so he has, but he also has to learn chemistry and physics and then materia medica before he can carry out much treatment.

We think that to consider the Temporary Treatment section of the Mental Treatment Act of 1930 as unusable is wrong. It was only meant to apply to a small percentage of cases, and so it does. The Act does *not* require "two doctors' certificates," but two "recommendations," which is a very different thing.

To say that "certification should be used as a last resort" is a curious statement to make in appealing for *early* treatment, as often it is the only means of getting the patient into hospital, where he will be able to obtain adequate treatment. Far too often certification is left until the patient is almost beyond treatment. A much greater use of certification would be a much greater therapeutic aid. If any stigma does attach itself to certification (which we doubt), it is not due to the existence of the certificate, but to the fact that the patient in question is "queer" and has to "go away," and surely as a rule the whole parish knows all about it long before the certificate is signed.

In the section devoted to glandular therapy some thirty lines are devoted to oestrin and testosterone. This is quite useless. No mention is made of the importance of estimating the quantity and identity of the sex hormones in the urine before any treatment is instituted. The whole subject of the relation of sex hormones to the personality is most important and very complicated, and well merits a long chapter to itself.

There is an inadequate bibliography and the proof correction seems to leave much to be desired, *i.e.* Sargent in the bibliography is Sarg~~e~~nt in the letterpress, C. W. Fleming would appear to be the reviewer whose initials are G. W. T. H., and Lewis Aubrey in the bibliography would most likely be Lewis, Aubrey; and surely Guttman, E. Mayer Gross, W. represents Guttmann, E., and Mayer-Gross, W.!

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Nineteen-Forty Mental Measurements Yearbook. Edited by O. K. BUROS. New Jersey: The Mental Measurements Yearbook, 1941. Pp. xxiii + 674. Price \$6.

This large volume is crammed with useful information on mental testing of all kinds, achievement, character and personality, intelligence, vocations, together with chapters on testing in mathematics, science, languages, social studies, reading, and fine arts.

There is a separate section quoting reviews of psychological books from the various psychological journals. This is a most useful section of the book, for here we have gathered together really sound opinions (in many cases giving the author of the opinion) on a large variety of books. We can easily find out what a variety of different schools of thought think of any particular book.

This excellent book should be in the possession of everyone dealing with mental testing in any shape or form.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Practical Neurological Diagnosis. By R. GLEN SPURLING, M.D. Second edition. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1940. Pp. xii + 239. Price 22s.

This small book is intended primarily for students and as such it is excellent. It is very lucidly written and well illustrated. It is divided into three parts, dealing with neurological examination, cerebro-spinal fluid and Roentgen diagnosis. The third part dealing with Roentgen diagnosis is very good, and