

become impaired and create divergent notions, which are not corrected by later perceptions. The affective sphere intervenes in an imperious fashion, suppressing all that is undesirable. Henceforward continual gaps occur in logical sequence, which become filled in by delusional and illogical ideas of the same quality. Once this state is reached, the reactions of the patient to external influences, as well as to personal sentiments, become more pronounced, and create a series of secondary symptoms, all of which may be traced to the primary phenomenon.

There is a chapter on the psychological disorders of infancy and adolescence. Another chapter is devoted to the neuroses of adult life. A brief outline is given of psycho-analysis and of the other therapeutic methods. Seeing that he attaches so much importance to psychological causes, it is not surprising to find that Dr. Forel is a strong advocate of psychological treatment for the neuroses. He refuses to recognize any specific therapeutic method: "The therapist who applies the same so-called specific method to every case makes himself the slave of that method." He recognizes two main forms of treatment, *viz.*, psychological analysis and suggestion. For him the only rational form of psycho-therapy is that which selects from all the approved remedies the elements most suited to the individual. He says the majority of psychotherapists use analysis combined with suggestion, or—in the numerous cases where analysis is useless or impossible—suggestion with or without hypnosis.

NORMAN R. PHILLIPS.

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*La Psychanalyse, les Médecins, et le Public.* By Dr. HENRI FLOURNOY, Privat-docent à l'Université de Genève. Editions Forum, Neuchatel et Genève, 1924. Pp. 35.

This small pamphlet originated in a lecture given by the author in December, 1923, at Paris, and is designed by him to give, in the first part a brief general exposition of the fundamentals of Freud's psychology, in the second part a few general remarks on psycho-analysis as a scientific doctrine and as a method of treatment.

It fulfils these aims most admirably; it points out that psycho-analysis can be regarded as a method of psychological investigation, as a body of doctrine and hypothesis about mental activities, and as a method of treatment. It gives a brief and accurate account within its limited scope of what the method of psycho-analysis is, and of its foundation in the belief that instinct and emotion underlie all mental processes; that conflict between emotions, with repression of some of their manifestations and approval of others, give rise to various neurotic symptoms, and that a study of the dynamics of mental processes, giving due consideration to those hidden from consciousness, can lead to an understanding of mental conflicts and help in their resolution.

The author sums up very wisely the various forms of opposition and enthusiastic acceptance with which psycho-analysis has been received; he points out why the stressing of sexual trends is necessitated by their greater social suppression than holds for the

ego-trends, and emphasizes that psycho-analysis has not only insisted on the importance of the crude instincts, but also on that of their sublimation into all forms of social and artistic products. He gives due appreciation to the fact that psychology is not an exact science, and that Freud and his school claim only to have put forward tentative theories to be proved by experience.

Finally he discusses the value of the method from the point of view of treatment, pointing out that it does not claim to be a universal panacea, but only a method, possibly lengthy and uncertain, like the sanatorium treatment of tuberculosis, which can claim some good results in suitable cases, but which will not necessarily cure every case, which can help some cases where other methods fail, but may in others even cause an exacerbation of the disorder, and for which generally it may be said, as of most other methods of treatment, that on the whole it is of value if properly applied to suitable cases, and that in some cases it can help where other methods fail.

The pamphlet is well suited to give the general practitioner or the lay reader an idea of what psycho-analysis is, and a sane evaluation of its place as a scientific method and doctrine.

M. R. BARKAS.

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*Northumberland Standardized Tests.* Prepared by CYRIL BURT, M.A., D.Sc. Test I, Arithmetic; Test II, English. London: University of London Press. Specimen set, 1s.

Probably examinations are as old as formal instruction, and the preacher of old merely voiced an archaic instinctive feeling. The discussion as to whether examination questions should be few and long or many and short is also one of long standing, and the question may for many determine the source from which they shall seek their qualifications. The author of these tests clearly is of the opinion that for selecting children for scholarships at the ages of 10 to 12 the advantage lies with a multiplicity of brief problems. Also so far as English is concerned, he adopts the method of giving in print three alternative answers to each question or part of a question, leaving the pupil to underline the selected answer. This, he points out, has two advantages: it eliminates differences in the speed of writing—a very variable factor in children—and also ensures that all examiners will “allot exactly the same marks to equivalent answers—an utter impossibility with answers of the essay type.” It may be thought to have the further advantage of handicapping the verbalist type, who is unduly favoured under the more traditional system. In this system a book is given to each candidate, who is given seven minutes exactly to tackle each question and must stop to the second. The type of question may be indicated:—In geography, “Draw a line under the right words, wherever two or more words are printed in thin type between brackets. ‘London is the capital of (*France, America, England*).’” Or in spelling, “Read this story and underline every word that is wrongly spelt: ‘Their is fur on a cat, butt none on a fish,’ etc., or ‘To-morrow is