

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