

present edition has been thoroughly revised in the light of more recent experience. It should prove a valuable handbook for medical officers called upon to treat civilians and soldiers during the present war, and can be especially recommended to those engaged upon war-time psychotherapy.

S. M. COLEMAN.

Shell-Shock in France 1914-1918. By CHARLES S. MYERS, C.B.E., F.R.S. Cambridge University Press, 1940. Pp. xii + 146. Price 4s. 6d.

This little volume contains short chapters on the causes, symptoms and treatment of "shell-shock" cases and also on their disposal both in France and in this country during the last war. While condemning the term "shell-shock," as a "singularly ill-chosen term," it seems curious that the author should attempt to perpetuate it in the title to his book. Dr. Myers is fairly catholic in his methods of treatment of the psycho-neuroses. For cases of war hysteria, he favours explanation, persuasion and re-education, though admitting that certain cases do better with deep analysis, hypnosis or strong suggestion with the aid of ether or electrical stimulation.

Unfortunately the objective value of Dr. Myers' book is to some extent marred by the constant and unwarranted intrusion of irrelevant subjective matter. It is admitted that the preparation of this work brought to the surface certain unpleasant personal difficulties and private animosities of those times, but there seems to be no valid reason why references to these should not have been kept out of the printed text. Exhibiting a mechanism well known to psychiatrists, the author is pleased to contrast the self-seeking and jealousy of the Harley Street specialist with the mild scholar from the "quieter backwaters of a University town."

S. M. COLEMAN.

A Psychologist's War-time Diary. By ANTHONY WEYMOUTH. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1940. Pp. 300. Price 12s. 6d.

Journalist, novelist, Harley Street doctor, psychologist and wireless commentator—the author, in diary form, tells us something of the people with whom he has made contact during the first six months of the war. In his varied capacities, he has had the opportunity of hearing the views and the experiences of all classes and types, ranging from Cardinal Hinsley to George Robey, and from Lord Horder to Bernard Shaw. There are numerous amusing anecdotes and interesting side-lights on war-conditions. Interspersed are little chats on popular psychological topics, such as sleep and dreams, memory, heredity, "shell-shock," the psychology of charm, etc. It is clear that it is the journalist and commentator, not the doctor and psychologist, who are responsible for this book.

S. M. COLEMAN.

New Facts on Mental Disorders. By NEIL A. DAYTON, M.D. Baltimore: C. C. Thomas, 1940. Pp. xxxiv + 486. Price \$4.50.

The problem of mental disorders is tackled as a single problem and from a statistical point of view based on an analysis of some 90,000 admissions to mental hospitals. The work is really the result of the labours of a team of investigators. A number of interesting facts are revealed. There was a definite increase in the incidence of mental illness for some time before the depression of 1929-30 started, and this did not increase during the depression.

The admission rates of re-admissions were decreasing steadily from 1917-1933. Amongst male admissions, abstinence, temperance and intemperance supply exactly the same numbers. Amongst female admissions 74 per cent. were abstinent and 19 per cent. temperate. Future mental patients did not turn to alcohol as a means of escape from unemployment and depression. The senile psychoses and the arterio-sclerotic psychoses show a higher incidence than all other psychoses combined.

The author points out that prohibition produced a decrease of 20 per cent. in female admissions from dementia praecox, of 29 per cent. in involuntal psychoses and 68 per cent. in female alcoholic psychoses.

"Mental disorders in Massachusetts are increasing so slowly that all apprehension as to the seriousness of the situation may be discarded." It was found that "society has been unable to absorb recovered patients ready for discharge to as great an extent in recent years as in past years."

This is a very interesting book and a very useful model for research on similar problems.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Beyond the Clinical Frontiers. By EDWARD A. STRECKER, M.D.
London: Chapman & Hall, 1940. Pp. 210. Price 9s. 6d.

This book presents the sixth of the Salmon Memorial Lectures, a memorial to the late Thomas William Salmon.

The first five lecturers all set a very high standard in their work, and Dr. Strecker, who is Professor of Psychiatry at Pennsylvania University, has certainly kept up the standard.

The book is divided into nine chapters dealing with massive retreat from reality; common evasions of everyday life; first aids to reality evasion; the mental patient, the "normal" man and the mob; the crowd man at close range; lessons to be learned from mental pathology; the need for mental hygiene; the feasibility of mental hygiene and mental hygiene planning.

This is mental hygiene at its best, and most charmingly written. The sentence "Our hope lies in the socially-minded person who is sufficiently in touch with reality to be also a non-crowd man" contains a great truth. As Nietzsche said: "Mankind has a poor ear for best music," but the music contained in this book may well prove to attract mankind in time to save him from complete devolution. Mass psychosis needs mental hygiene to prevent it.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Psychological Studies in Dementia Praecox. By ISABELLA KENDIG, Ph.D., and WINIFRED V. RICHMOND, Ph.D. Michigan: Edwards Brothers, 1940. Pp. x + 211.

This book is divided into three parts, dealing with (1) Dementia Praecox and General Intelligence, (2) Patterns of Mental Function in Dementia Praecox, and (3) Dementia Praecox and the Concept of Deterioration.

The authors find that the dementia praecox mind is blunted and dulled. This intellectual inferiority is not due to deterioration, but is mostly the product of emotional maladjustments which later play an important part in the precipitation of the psychosis.

The general impression is that deterioration has not been shown to take place in many cases of dementia praecox. No matter how great the regression, intellectual ability remains intact. There is a functional impairment of intellect, but no permanent loss.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.