

is recorded with realism and without sensationalism. The overall principles of recreation and treatment are discussed. This part of the book is of special interest when compared with the administration of other mental hospitals. Psychiatrists will find the introductory chapters on legal and medical insanity particularly appropriate at the present time in view of the evidence given before the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment.

With reference to the account given of the shooting at Queen Victoria at Windsor Railway Station on 2 March, 1882, it should be noted that Mr. Partidge, like some other authors, repeats the statement that the Queen objected to the prisoner being found "*Not Guilty* on the ground of insanity" *as she saw him fire the pistol herself*. But an extract from the Court Circular issued from Windsor Castle on 3 March, 1882, and published in the *Daily Telegraph* on 4 March 1882, states: "The Queen *heard the report* (of the pistol) *but did not see* the occurrence, though Princess Beatrice, who was sitting on that side of the carriage, perceived the man raise his hand and fire." This caveat is not without interest for as the result of the Queen's reaction to the above verdict the Trial of Lunatics Act, 1883, followed and the words "*Guilty* of the act or omission . . ." were introduced in the verdict.

NORWOOD EAST.

**Social Science and Mental Health. An Essay on Psychiatric Social Workers.** By MARGARET ASHDOWN and S. CLEMENT BROWN. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, Ltd. 1953. Pp. 254. Price 16s.

This book deals with a branch of social service little more than twenty years old, and will impress the reader with the authors' intimate knowledge of their subject. Sound judgement, a practical approach and occasional criticisms are presented with carefully chosen words. A close acquaintance and understanding of the tensions which confront the psychiatric social worker, who is essentially concerned with mental illness, maladjusted personalities and personal relations, are apparent throughout the book. The definition of this speciality by the American Association of Psychiatric Workers is quoted—"Social work undertaken in direct and responsible working with psychiatry"—and its merits are acknowledged. But it is pointed out that it does not suggest the element of reciprocity between social work and psychiatry and the need of each for what the other can contribute.

The authors discuss the origin and growth of psychiatric service. This is followed by examples of case work, and the selection and training of those who choose this form of work are subsequently discussed. The careers of some trained psychiatric social workers are then presented factually and impartially, and their services in clinics, hospitals and wider fields are examined. Other chapters on personal difficulties, ends and means, and on considerations of wider significance are included. Each chapter is a valuable contribution to an important book. Miss Ashdown and Miss Brown are to be congratulated.

NORWOOD EAST.

**Reason and Unreason in Psychological Medicine.** By E. B. STRAUSS. Foreward by SIR RUSSELL BRAIN. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., Pp. 55. Price not stated.

Dr. Strauss has collected under the above title his Presidential Address to the Medical Section of the British Psychological Society in 1946 and his Croonian Lectures in 1952. In the preface he states he has tried to follow the middle way and in his Presidential Address he seems to point to the white line when he states, "Any and every psychological formulation is little better than a parable, or simile, or metaphor. The same is true to a certain extent of all scientific formulations . . ." He believes that psychoanalytical theory in its present form will have nothing new to offer suffering humanity, and he discusses

fact and fiction in Freudian psychology with his usual insight and balanced judgment. Discussing the acceptance of formal theological systems the author pungently states: "A successful Freudian analysis results only in a person *making* good in the American sense, the idea of his *being* or *becoming* good or even *doing* good does not come into the picture."

In the Croonian Lectures Dr. Strauss considers the concept of causality and reminds us that as medical students we tended to accept the cause-effect relationship in disease. He avoids the temptation to throw light on the body-mind relationship in its causal setting, and whilst he accepts the view that the whole of medicine, including psychological medicine, is psychosomatic he finds no answer to the question itself seeing that it "has no meaning outside a twisted semantic framework." Further, he believes no causal schemata are accurate which disregard the possible operation of free choice. The value of orthodox psychoanalysis is discussed and concepts such as the Oedipus complex, infantile sexuality and the like are supported. But Dr. Strauss believes that the use to which they are put by practising analysts is often unfortunate, and points out that rigid psycho-analytical theory violates the principle of multiple aetiology; and perhaps the reviewer may add in the words of John Stuart Mill "the intermixture of effects."

These scholarly, clear and concise addresses are presented admirably. They can be re-read with pleasure and satisfaction. Psychiatrists will be grateful to the author for bringing them together under the same cover.

NORWOOD EAST.

**The Tools of Social Science.** By JOHN MADGE. London; Longmans, Green & Co. 1953. Pp. 294. Price 25s.

The generous and fully documented pages of this volume deal with the chief techniques which social scientists have introduced to advance our knowledge of an increasingly important subject. The introduction is followed by a discussion on the relevant aspects of language and logic, and the author concludes that the social scientist must be constantly on guard lest inferences based on observational material evade his logical defences and present themselves as equivalent proofs. The use of documents in social science and problems of authenticity are then examined, and it is pointed out that much social evidence is still obtained second-hand from documentary sources and that the use of documents being remote from the objects of the social scientists study tempts him to stretch his material to suit his thesis. Observational methods and their practical application receive attention, and the author states that most successful scientific discoveries are due to the fact that some observers see simultaneously more things and unsuspected things than their colleagues. Different types of interview occupy a third of the book and include subjects which can be suitably explored by the use of mass interviews, sampling and other techniques. Matter relating to the reduction of bias and the scope of experiment in social science is examined later. A final chapter on the limits of social science emphasizes the lesson of the book—that there can often be an orderly progress through the search of documents, through observations and various forms of questioning before we are prepared to experiment.

The book demands and deserves the reader's close attention. It should be read by the serious student of social science. As technical terms are avoided as far as possible contributors to the pseudo-scientific literature which inundates us to-day should profit by the author's erudite study and sound advice.

NORWOOD EAST.

**A General Selection from the Works of Sigmund Freud.** Edited by JOHN RICKMAN. Reprinted 1953. London: The Hogarth Press, Ltd., and The Institute of Psychoanalysis. Pp. 329. Price 10s. 6d.