

Science and Psychical Phenomena. By G. N. M. TYRRELL. London: Methuen, 1938. Pp. xv + 379. Price 12s. 6d.

Anyone who develops a practical interest in psychical research, and as a result of his investigations reaches conclusions that are not either completely damning or else expressed so guardedly that no one can draw any definite statement from them, must take his scientific life in his hands. Yet in the face of hostility and bias a mass of experimental results has been obtained on telepathy, precognition and clairvoyance. They appear to be explicable on the assumptions either of a widespread conspiracy to delude the ingenuous, or of the existence in some people of a method of perceiving the mechanisms of which are not at present understood.

One reason for the large-scale ignorance of the experimental results is that they are scattered through many volumes of the *Journal for Psychical Research*, and Mr. Tyrrell's book gives excellent service in collecting a number of them together. His is not a book that gives uncritical eulogisms: he presents experimental work and independently attested facts, and includes some of the failures as well as some of the successes. His strictures on the physical type of mediumship are particularly severe.

He groups the work into three main classes—spontaneous evidence, experimental laboratory work, and mediumistic trances—and offers theoretical explanations of the phenomena. The reader is likely to find the imposing array of facts more interesting and impressive than the theoretical aspects. The weakest part of the book is, perhaps, that which deals with supposed communications from the dead. The evidence presented by the cross-correspondences is involved and intricate, and even when it is unravelled it is as thin and inconclusive as the evidence presented in other parts of the book, for telepathy, precognition and clairvoyance is weighty. For the latter I need refer the reader only to the precautions taken by Miss Radcliffe Hall in the AVB case to check the medium by private inquiry agents, to the laboratory experiments of Rhine and of Tyrrell, and to the well-attested predictive dream of the result of the Derby in 1933 by Mr. Williams. It is unfortunate that in the last case the subject was a Cornish Quaker, ardently opposed to betting and gambling, and that he was therefore unable to turn his rare ability to his own advantage.

I hope that the book will help to diminish the existing prejudice against psychical research.

J. M. BLACKBURN.

Mental Therapy: Studies in Fifty Cases. By LOUIS S. LONDON. New York: Covici. Friede, 1937. Pp. 774. 2 vols. Price \$12.50.

Those who have been sceptical of Freudian theories and their practical analytic applications have frequently twitted psycho-analysts with the statement that lengthy reported cases demonstrating how their therapeutic results have been arrived at have been more or less conspicuous by their absence. It has been said that without these the value of such work could not be adequately estimated from a scientific point of view. Such an accusation is only true in so far as numbers of them have not been published collectively. From time to time isolated cases of interest have appeared in technical journals.

These large volumes, giving detailed records of fifty cases, at any rate amply remedy such an omission. The contents are divided into six parts.

Part I discourses on the evolution of psychotherapy, gives a general survey of psycho-analytic theories, treats of the meaning of the dream, the psycho-sexual psychology of the child, and the pathology of the sexual instinct. Part II embraces the records of various hysterical and anxiety neuroses. Part III deals with cases of sexual perversion; Part IV with borderline types; and Parts V and VI with schizophrenic and cyclic psychoses. Many of these reports are in great detail. One on sadism and masochism and another on Lesbian love occupy nearly fifty pages, while a hundred and seventeen pages are devoted to a study in fetishism. At the termination of each case-report a brief comment, summing up the gist of its essential psychological interpretation, is added.

There can be no question but that such a presentation of psycho-analytical investigation and psychotherapy as this should be of great interest and use to the psychiatric student. Though in some measure we may differ from Dr. London in his interpretation of some of the dream material and his analytic deductions, his findings are always stimulating and suggestive. What he terms "traumatization of the libido" seems to be the basic root upon which he builds up the psychopathology of the abnormal mental states.

Perhaps of more especial interest are his contributions on the psychogenesis and mechanisms in the psychoses. He strikes rather too optimistic a note in stating that he believes that beneficial results can be obtained by psychotherapy, and that all cases should be given the benefit of doubt, and have such treatment before resorting to custodial care. In his opinion schizophrenia has a neurotic background, and if treated early the condition may be arrested or delayed and in many instances adjusted. In one quoted case (No. 39) which was advanced, successful therapy occurred after about four years' analysis. It is thought, too, that the progress of the disease may be determined by the study of dreams and the degree of regression established. If the dreams are incoherent, the prognosis may be regarded as grave.

In manic-depressive psychoses it is said that psycho-analysis can reveal the secret conflict, but that the results have been inadequate. Also that psycho-analysis during the intervals of attacks will not prevent subsequent ones, and such therapy in these disorders is more dangerous than in the schizophrenic group.

Notwithstanding the undoubted value of these volumes and our recognition of the painstaking work of the author, we must take exception to the publisher's statements on the cover that they "become a landmark in the history of psycho-analysis" and that they will displace the studies of Havelock Ellis and Krafft-Ebing.

C. STANFORD READ.

Papers on Psycho-analysis. By ERNEST JONES, M.D., M.R.C.P.Lond.
Fourth edition. London: Ballière, Tindal, & Cox, 1938. Pp. x + 643. Price 25s.

It is difficult to realize that twenty-six years have passed since the first edition of this excellent work appeared. In the second edition, which came out six years later, the contents were nearly doubled; in the third edition of 1923 the changes were small, while in this last one we note the omission of twenty old chapters and the addition of twelve new ones. In all the editions eighty papers altogether will have appeared.