

containing much that it is not essential for a nurse to know. We demurred at this because the book was designedly on a high plane, for the very good reasons given in the report of the Committee which drew up the book under the chairmanship of Dr. Bedford Pierce. Though the book contains all the information necessary to pass the mental nursing examinations, it is also designed to be a complete guide to the nurse in her subsequent professional career. We are bound to say that had Dr. Buckley's nursing text-book been the nursing handbook authorized by the Association there would have been some grounds for the Royal Commission's criticisms.

For nurses contemplating taking higher certificates or University diplomas the American manual would no doubt prove as acceptable as *The Basis of Psychiatry* has been found in the case of the medical student.

We have read the book before us with the greatest interest and regard it as an appropriate completion of the author's former work, and we recommend it to our readers.

In this country we rely more on training and experience than theoretical knowledge, which is only a strain on the memory until the examination is passed.

J. R. LORD.

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*The Development of the Psycho-Analytical Theory of the Psychoses, 1893-1926.* By JOHN RICKMAN, M.A., M.D. (Supplement No. 2 to the *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1928. Size 10½ in. by 7 in. Pp. iii + 90, and 17 pages of Bibliography. Price 6s. net.

To review this publication would mean a critical survey of the whole field of psycho-analytic teaching in regard to psycho-pathology, such is the ground covered by the author. The clarity of Dr. Rickman's presentation, his avoidance of the verbosity and obscurity which characterizes many writings on the subject, and the absence of jargon which, sooner or later, attaches itself to a new department of knowledge, renders this book highly intelligible, and this, together with its comprehensiveness, renders it especially valuable to the student of psycho-pathology.

Every psychiatrist, whether he is a believer or not in Freudian teaching, should possess himself of a copy for his information, and even if only for use as a work of reference.

It covers the essential matter of many a heavy volume and its value is enhanced by a bibliography, the author has been at some pains to complete from the extensive literature which has accumulated since psycho-analysis first found a place in psychiatry in the early nineties.

At the end is a table of psychological mechanisms showing their relationship to mental disorders drawn up in 1926 by the author. Two columns of it are of particular interest—those relating to (1) defence and (2) clinical syndrome.

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