

The subject-matter of the various chapters is wisely selected and put with the conciseness of the experienced teacher, each chapter being concluded with a useful list of references, as is usual in American text-books. At the end of the book is a list of general references.

There is a good deal of clever writing in this book. The author's outlook is strictly biological, and the key-note of his treatment of his subject is struck in the following quotation :

"The habit of drawing a distinction between the body and mind should be discouraged. The mind is not a thing. It is one aspect of a biological organism, which is a unit and reacts as a unit."

Some prominence is given to the psychogenesis of mental disorder and Freudian teaching, and a whole chapter is devoted to mental mechanisms; this is admirably written, Bernard Hart's *The Psychology of Insanity* being one of the references given. On the whole, however, the author succeeds in avoiding a controversial attitude to any of the various schools of psychiatric thought. As the author declares, such would only lead to confusion on the part of the beginner.

Two points of general application should be mentioned. No clinical cases are inserted as types of mental disorders, and in dealing with each the nursing of it is the prominent feature. There is also a special chapter of 20 pages devoted to the care and management of the psychotic and a 9-page chapter to the nurse and her professional duties.

The final chapter deals with mental hygiene and social psychiatry, which is largely "child guidance."

As far as we can judge this book will meet the requirements of those who contemplate taking a University diploma in mental nursing. It meets admirably the purpose for which it was written; it can be read with profit by any mental nurse, and would form an excellent text-book for an honours certificate, say, of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. Though not written for the medical officer, there is much in it of interest to him, for the more he knows of mental nursing the better both for the patients he has to treat and the nurses he has to instruct.

J. R. LORD.

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*The Mind.* By Various Authors. Edited by R. J. S. McDOWALL, D.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.P.E., with an introduction by ERNEST BARKER, M.A., D.Litt., LL.D. London: Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd., 1927. Cr. 8vo. Pp. xvi + 316. Price 8s. 6d. net,

This book comprises a series of lectures delivered in King's College, London, during the Lent Term of 1927, the object being to enlighten the public on the modern conceptions of mind from several academic standpoints. It is a symposium of teachers in special fields of knowledge, and can be likened to that made available to the public by Messrs. Blackie & Son in *Evolution in the Light of Modern Knowledge: A Collective Work*, one of the most fascinating publications of recent years on this subject.

There is no doubt about the advantage this method has of presenting subjects on which there is no general agreement, and especially in regard to one so elusive as the mind. The question "What is mind?" has been asked and answered since the dawn of intellect down to now, yet the problem remains inscrutable, and such is the impression which this book gives.

The chief value of the book is that it conveys a warning to the student not to be too dogmatic about the nature of mind, and impresses on him that every conception of it has its uses and serves to illustrate and illuminate some department of knowledge. These conceptions are of many kinds, and the principal ones are dealt with in this book. Prof. McDowall, who suggested the scheme of lectures, is to be congratulated on his selection of view-points, and on his securing men of light and learning as expositors of the various subjects and their bearing on the main question.

Though we should like to see this book in the hands of every intelligent member of the public, we are more impressed with its value to students of psychology and psychiatry. Physiologists and medical students particularly would benefit from its study, if only as an antidote to the necessarily materialistic atmosphere in which they work.

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*Nursing Mental and Nervous Diseases: From the View-point of Biology, Psychology and Neurology.* A Text-book for Use in Schools for the Training of Nurses. By ALBERT COULSON BUCKLEY, M.D. London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1927. Demy 8vo. Pp. 312. 57 illustrations. Price 12s. 6d.

This is a notable addition to Lippincott's excellent series of nursing manuals, and the subject-matter has been in a great measure selected in conformity with the standard curriculum for training schools of America as revised in 1926. It is not likely, however, to be so widely read or so popular as the author's *The Basis of Psychiatry* (1920), for our Association's *Handbook for Mental Nurses* specially meets the requirements of the syllabuses of the mental nursing examinations of this country, except, perhaps, of those now being conducted by some of the Universities.

As regards psychiatry and psychology it is a shortened and simplified edition of the author's text-book adapted to the needs of the nurse. There is, however, much new writing. Theories and unsettled questions are avoided, and to the description of each mental disorder there is added a section dealing with "nursing care." In addition there is a special chapter devoted to mental nursing, special nursing procedures, occupational therapy, psychotherapy, psycho-analysis, suggestion and mental hygiene.

Nervous diseases form the subject of the last part of the book, in which the chapters are on the same plan as those dealing with mental diseases.

The Association's *Handbook* was criticized before the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorders as being too advanced, and