

The comparison of public health work in both the United States and in the U.S.S.R. with that developed in this country is most interesting. The author regards Soviet progress in state medicine as having been made at great speed. The unification of public health and general medical work attained in Russia at one stride is now, the author points out, only slowly and incompletely being reached in Western countries, although as far as environmental and sanitary reform is concerned the U.S.S.R. is struggling to emerge from what was the English position some seventy years ago.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

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**Understanding Our Children.** By E. E. MUMFORD, M.A. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1937. Pp. xi + 233. Price 3s. 6d.

Though in recent years the literary output on the psychological aspects of child study has been somewhat prolific, we can, in all truth, regard these pages as a unique contribution to a subject which is rightly being considered as of supreme importance. The penetrating and profound insight shown here into the workings of the child's mind is astounding, and it is evident that such has been gained not only by a deep study of children's behaviour, but through an intense love of young humanity and a capacity to enter into the child's point of view; the motivating forces at play have become recognized in their true perspective.

This is no ordinary academic study, but a highly instructive and homely review of child conduct which has a very practical aim. Though scientifically accurate, Mrs. Mumford, who is well oriented in all the modern theories of mental development, steers clear of psychological jargon and presents her subject in non-technical language and in such an attractive way that the contents cannot help but make a wide appeal. The light that can be thrown upon the misbehaviour and difficulties of the little members of the family is well illustrated in the many stories of home life.

The beginning chapters treat of the need for understanding children, the child mind and how it grows and works, and the creative power of imagination. Subsequently, right conduct and learning conventional behaviour and self-control as well as the child's right to inquire and its right to freedom, are discussed. The problem of punishment is dealt with in a more masterly way than we have seen anywhere else. The topic of the child's approach to God, rationally and beautifully handled, concludes the volume.

We cannot speak too highly of this book, which is a worthy successor to the author's *Dawn of Character*, which had an issue of over 21,000 copies. Though it is written for all those concerned in the education and care of children, many a medical psychologist can learn from its contents.

C. STANFORD READ.

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**Differential Psychology.** By A. ANASTASI. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1937. Pp. xvii + 615. Price 12s.

Though familiar chapter headings, such as learning, remembering, perceiving, thinking, feeling and so on, do not make their appearance, a text-book on individual and group differences in behaviour, as Dr. Hollingworth says in the introduction, "comes near to representing the whole field of psychology".