

academic type, the really dull and the average group who, though not excelling in academic subjects, will often possess special abilities. At the Fieldston School, New York, every pupil undergoes a two-year exploratory course in the arts, his reactions and latent powers being carefully noted. In the subsequent major course, the specialized interest forms the central nucleus around which the other subjects are patterned. Conditions such as severe manual handicap, stuttering, sex problems and inferiority complexes derive benefit from exercises in creative and plastic problems, group activities and dramatic performances, the latter being of value in assisting social readjustment.

JOHN D. W. PEARCE.

An Experiment in Pre-Industrial Work for Chronic Women Patients. (*Occup. Ther. and Rehabil.*, vol. xiii, p. 317, Oct., 1934.) *Le Vesconte, H. P.*

The provision of adequate, suitable occupation for chronic deteriorated female patients between the ages of thirty-five and sixty-five is a major mental hospital problem. To be therapeutic an occupation must be purposeful. Deteriorated and destructive patients require constructive work, the tearing of rags, ravelling or ripping being forbidden. A pre-industrial group doing simple work, such as mending clothes, offers much scope for initiative, and the atmosphere is that of an occupational centre. The regularity and the responsibility entailed have a valuable effect on the patient, but where no interest is aroused the treatment is discontinued.

JOHN D. W. PEARCE.

7. Criminology.

The Treatment of Problem Children in a Psychiatric Hospital. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xci, p. 869, Jan., 1935.) *Potter, H. W.*

The problem children who are suitable for hospitalization are those who present physical disabilities, and those, under the age of about six years, whose mental reactions invalidate psychometric tests. Children usually accept hospitalization with facility. The primary requisite for direct psychotherapy is to secure the child's confidence. It is essential for the psychiatrist to avoid any indication of censorship. The child's sense of guilt must not be intensified. It may be necessary to spend many hours in talking about what might appear to be irrelevant matter. Ultimately, however, the child will talk about what interests him, and these are the things which the family have complained of. The phantasy method and the play technique may be of great service. The treatment of the home situation is of equal importance to that of the child.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Psychiatry and the Problems of Delinquency. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xci, p. 773, Jan., 1935.) *Gregory, M. S.*

The author takes the term "delinquency" as synonymous with crime. Delinquents may be broadly divided into three classes. The relatively normal delinquent is one who has exhibited a consistently satisfactory adjustment between instinct and the demands of reality, and whose crime was circumstantial. The personality deviate is one whose behaviour does not demand that he should be considered a distinctly psychopathic personality; his failures of inhibition are transitory. It is with the third type, the true psychopathic personality, that psychiatry can make its most useful contribution. The great majority of delinquents in this third class are recidivists. Psychiatry does not pretend to offer a panacea for social disorders, and must be careful not to make unjustified claims.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Chronic Post-encephalitis in Juvenile Delinquents. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xvi, p. 843, Jan., 1935.) *Molitch, M.*

A study of boys with chronic post-encephalitis, who found their way into an institution for juvenile delinquents. Ten case-histories are appended. The early