

A long-distance plan is advisable in the upbringing of any child, but it is particularly in the case of 'problem' children that this becomes an absolute essential; and in this experiment this factor has been strongly stressed and kept in view by all *personnel* dealing with the children. While this experiment is undoubtedly most praiseworthy, it is extremely doubtful if it can be considered a practical solution to the problem with which it deals, owing to the large expense involved. Certainly in this country no local authority is likely to consider seriously "a graded school and playgrounds under psychiatric supervision, with a *personnel* including specially trained teachers, nurses, occupational therapists and social workers" attached to "a hospital for mental diseases with a special building for children in its own grounds."

The book well merits the careful study of all those concerned with children presenting conduct disorders. P. K. McCOWAN.

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*Alcohol and the Other Germ Poisons.* By G. P. FRETTS. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1931. Med. 8vo. Pp. 179. Price, cloth, 7.50 gld.

In this small volume Fretts sets out a vast array of information of a clinical and statistical nature about alcohol and its effect on the germ-plasm, both human and animal. His conclusions are what one would expect—that much more information of a reliable nature is required. So much information is obviously prepared by biased individuals that its statistical value is *nil*. At the same time we are, as the author wisely stresses, very short of statistics on healthy persons to compare with those on alcoholics.

From the experimental point of view the author produces sound evidence that injury to the germ is brought about by alcohol. At the same time he points out that the knowledge derived from the influence of alcohol on man and the experiments on animals has not taught us anything about the heredity of acquired characteristics.

Although there is such a collection of material from all available sources, one is disappointed that the author has no statistical evidence to convince us, one way or the other. There is an excellent bibliography. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

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*Les Délirants.* By R. MALLET. Paris: Gaston Doin et Cie, 1930. 8vo. Pp. 106. Price 12 fcs.

For a long time it has been usual to discuss the ætiology of delusions chiefly from the psychological point of view. It is, of course, a well-established fact that the delusions which occur in acute delirious states are of toxic origin. But in such cases the delusions are fleeting in character and are accompanied by more or less clouding of consciousness, whereas in chronic systematized