

its relationships—a problem, in the first place, for medical science, and of hardly less importance to those interested in normal mental hygiene, economics, industry and the law.

Part I states the problem and then deals with the fundamental concepts of psychiatry.

Parts II and III deal with the symptomatology of the major mental diseases together with their causes. Part IV is devoted to the minor mental disorders (psychoneuroses). Part V criticizes Freud's psycho-analysis as not having the note of a true science.

Which of us, not entirely befogged with this form of meta-psychology, will not feel that there is much truth in the following quotations :

"There have been writers before him (Freud) who stripped the inner covering from the thoughts and motives of men and women, but none who has gone at the job with such a grim and relentless completeness. . . . I am not at all convinced that this inner life (of primitive, seething desire which civilization represses) is unconscious—all one has to do is to watch the covert glances of men and women, to say nothing of the shallowest glance at one's own mind, to know that the unacceptable continually flits into consciousness in its nakedness, and is with more or less difficulty thrust out."

"Whether he has contributed anything very lasting to the study of mental disease is a matter time will settle, but that he has contributed to human thought in a lasting way every candid observer must enthusiastically affirm."

Part VI deals with crime, and is based upon personal acquaintance with inmates of prisons. There is much in it of psychiatric interest, but the entourage is of course American. The author's views on heredity and mental disease are stated in the next part, and are the result of a research conducted by him for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. They were the subject-matter of a book already reviewed in this journal. Of their importance there can be no doubt. Myerson placed heredity in its true perspective. An excellent chapter on mental hygiene closes the book.

There is not a glib or stale statement to be found in it; interest freshens with every page, and our final word is that 6s. will be well spent in its purchase.

J. R. LORD.

The Opium Problem. By CHARLES E. TERRY, M.D., and MILDRED PELLENS. New York: The Committee on Drug Addictions in collaboration with the Bureau of Social Hygiene, Inc., 1928. 9½ in. by 6 in. Pp. xvi + 1042. Price 22s. 6d. net.

This study was undertaken by the authors at the instance of an American Committee on Drug Addiction organized in 1921, and was designed to supply the Committee with information on the following points: extent of the chronic use of opium; the nature and ætiology of chronic opium intoxication; how the condition should be treated and avoided.

Though much of the book is chiefly of American interest, the "dope" question is one of world-wide importance, and is receiving attention in every legislative assembly, chiefly at the instance of the League of Nations.

As a recent writer on the subject remarks, "Opium has proved one of the greatest blessings and also one of the greatest curses known to mankind," and its control is thus a matter deserving of the closest attention of sociologists.

A comprehensive work such as the present one cannot fail to be of the greatest value to those on whom has fallen the solution of this difficult problem.

The sociological side of it is a big one, and no attempt can be made here to describe or criticize the book before us in this respect. We leave that to other pens, but our impression is that our authors deal with it most ably, and little, if any, ground is left uncovered.

The historical and medical sides are, however, of interest to psychiatrists, especially the latter. The use of opium as a therapeutic agent dates from very early times, the first known mention of it being in the language of the Sumerians, the non-Semitic people who inhabited Mesopotamia three or four thousand years before the Christian era. The use and abuse of opium from those days onwards is the subject of two chapters headed respectively the "Development of the Problem," and "Ætiology." The general conclusion is that, as regards the abuse of opium, the greatest predisposing factor is the make-up of the individual. Further studies in this direction are recommended by the authors.

The general nature of chronic opium intoxication, the pathology of the somatic and psychic changes involved, tolerance, dependence, symptomatology, types of users and treatment are all dealt with historically. For instance, in the chapter on treatment, after a brief introduction, the views and practices (supported by appropriate extracts of their writings) of the following physicians are given: George B. Wood, 1856; Alonzo Calkins, 1871; Horace Day, 1872; A. Stillé, 1874; E. Levinstein, 1875; J. B. Mattison, 1876-93; H. H. Kane, 1880; C. W. Earle, 1880; D. Jouet, 1883; William Pepper, 1886; A. Erlenmeyer, 1886; R. Burhat, 1884; B. Ball and O. Jennings, 1887-1909; Paul Sollier, 1894; William Osler, 1894, and 37 others, in a chapter of 111 pages—a good example of the thoroughness with which our authors have performed their task.

This book is chiefly a work of reference as far as the general reader is concerned, but for those studying the question, either medically or sociologically, it is a work they cannot well afford to be without.

J. R. LORD.

Aids to Psychology. By JOHN H. EWEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1929. 6½ in. by 4¼ in.
Pp. vii + 163. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This is a recent addition to a popular Students' Aid Series, and like its companions, amounts to a very useful note-book which most students would otherwise create for themselves during a course of reading for an examination or for reference in future literary work.