

An interesting fact transpiring from the text is that the proportion of doctors to patients in English hospitals has not yet reached that achieved in one Turkish hospital at the time of Miss Dix's sternly dutiful conception of the Grand Tour.

She was a great woman, intolerant of brutality, but still capable of little unkindnesses of her own. Of her it was said, "She scatters about her like morning dew as she goes along her way, little miniature books called Dewdrops, containing religious proverbs, and numbers of small tracts". This was the sole blot on a life devoted to humanity.

A. GUIRDHAM.

Modern Psychology in Practice. By W. L. NEUSTATTER, M.B., M.R.C.P.
London: J. & A. Churchill, 1937. Pp. xvi + 299. Price 10s. 6d.

Writing in a chatty, easy style and making use of the minimum of technical terms the author gives the general practitioner and student, for whom this book is primarily intended, a very fair presentation of the subject. The layout of the work is good. Short chapters on the general principles of psychopathology are followed by sections on children's disorders, adult disorders and methods of treatment. A final section has chapters on psychology in relation to general medicine; the causation and prophylaxis of mental disorder; and the law in relation to insanity.

The book is well worth obtaining purely for the section on children. Many otherwise excellent text-books deal with this subject in a very inadequate manner. The average psychiatrist, trained at the mental hospital, is liable to find himself at sea when, at the clinic, he is first confronted with the abnormal child. Here many valuable hints on diagnosis, prognosis and treatment may be obtained. In the chapters on adult disorders the various borderland states, character anomalies and the psychoses are concisely and clearly delineated.

The section devoted to treatment comes in for some criticism. In a work intended for general practitioners, it is hard to see the advantage of proclaiming, even if true, that in mental hospitals "trained psychotherapists cannot often be found". To the reviewer it would appear that the psychotherapist not associated with a mental hospital is in the position of a surgeon without an operating theatre; the latter can at best dabble in a little minor surgery.

In a book dealing with psychological problems, a study of treatment by physical methods is not really essential. If, nevertheless, this subject is entered upon, some approximation to accuracy should be attempted. "Somnifane," by most workers, is not given automatically "night and morning" in 2-to 4-c.c. doses. It is true that Dawson did treat 40 cases with somnifane at the Maudsley. The amount given and the duration of treatment are generally considered to have been totally inadequate. Kläsi, not Dawson, is the psychiatrist associated as a rule with prolonged narcosis. Incidentally the innovator of the insulin adjunct spells his name Ström-Olsen. We have yet to hear of "Guthmans" research with regard to "benzidine"; probably the author is referring to Guttmann and benzedrine. It is satisfactory to learn that insulin shock therapy "produces beneficial effects on long-standing cases of schizophrenia", and that the treatment is completed in a fortnight! The reviewer had the impression that the chances of recovery rapidly decreased if the psychosis was over a year's duration, and that on an average 60 coma doses are required. It seems a pity in a book containing so much of real value that the portion dealing with physical forms of therapy could not have been "vetted" by an adequate authority.

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