

Part I.—Reviews.

Occupational Treatment of Mental Illness. By J. IVISON RUSSELL, M.B., D.P.M. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1938. Pp. xvi + 232. Price 6s.

Occupational Therapy: An Addendum to the Handbook for Mental Nurses. Pp. 16. Price 6d.

(1) Dr. Russell has provided for a long-felt want in his book on occupational treatment. The book is written first of all for the mental nurse, but at the same time it will prove helpful to occupation therapists and medical officers of mental hospitals.

The book is divided into two parts, one theoretical and the other practical. Part I contains chapters on psychological types, organization, habit training, outdoor special parties, ward classes, physical training and recreation, the occupation centre, accommodation and equipment, purchase and care of supplies.

Part II has chapters on design, woodwork, basketry, brush-making, occupations in coir, bookbinding, plaster modelling and plastic casting, concrete work and cast stone, and miscellaneous occupations.

The writer points out that the treatment should be directed and supervised by the physician and that a great many factors have to be considered before the prescription is made out.

It is difficult to pick any one chapter for comment. All the chapters are well written and full of sound common sense. We cannot see that anyone can fail to derive benefit from reading this book and from applying the principles involved, and we wish it every success.

(2) The chapter on occupational therapy which will be included in the new edition of the Association's *Handbook* has been prepared by Miss Darwin, Senior Commissioner of the Board of Control. The four main questions discussed are: What is occupational therapy, how does it benefit mental patients, what is its scope in the hospital, and how is it applied to mental patients?

The chapter is very well done, and contains a well-chosen list of books of reference, which will be most useful to the nurse who wishes to learn more detail.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

A Text-book of the Practice of Medicine. By F. W. PRICE, M.D. Section XXI: "Psychological Medicine", by E. MAPOTHER and A. LEWIS. London: Oxford University Press. Pp. xxxvii + 2038. Price 36s.

In this well-known and much-used text-book the section devoted to psychological medicine covers eighty-five pages. It is questionable whether the compression of psychological medicine now-a-days into so short a space serves any