This matter-of-fact definition is characteristic of the whole book. If one misses that sense of enlightenment which can arise from deeper probings into the mysteries of mind and behaviour, it can, nevertheless, be said that here is a volume which meets a need and should be welcome to the teacher who likes to equate psychology and common sense.

Adler's Place in Psychology. By Lewis Way. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 18s.

While the teachings of Freud and Jung have received adequate recognition in this country, those of Adler have for various reasons been comparatively neglected. The translations of Adler's books are often not easily comprehended and assimilated, and there has been a great need for a clarification of his tenets and teachings. This need has now been admirably fulfilled by the present book. The author has made a masterly effort of clarification and explication. He has described lucidly Adler's views regarding the etiology of neuroses and mental illnesses, and contrasted these with the views held by other schools of psychopathology. He demonstrates that two of Adler's most fundamental concepts—those of Wholeness and Purpose—are substantiated in the philosophical school of Holism, and makes it clear that his general outlook is fundamentally dynamic and psychobiological. In the course of a little over 300 pages the author has presented the fundamentals of Adler's school of Individual Psychology in the correct perspective they deserve in the realm of psychology, and this book can be thoroughly recommended to all readers wishing to glean a knowledge of this subject. Even if they fail to agree with all his theories they cannot fail to appreciate the value of his teachings, particularly in relation to social psychology and child-guidance. Adler's place in psychology is vindicated beyond all doubt by this brilliantly instructive and informative book.

D.B.

Sterilization in North Carolina. By Moya Woodside. Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1950. Pp. xv, 219.

The State of North Carolina, in a geographical area of about the same size as that of England, has about one tenth of the population, predominantly rural, and about one third negro. The prevailing religious persuasion is Baptist or Methodist; the people are generally devout, tending towards fundamentalism, and guide their lives to an unusual extent by reference to the Bible. The incidence of mental deficiency, though not accurately ascertained, is high; and the birth rate is one of the highest in the United States.

This is the setting in which an interesting experiment in eugenics had been in operation for about 18 years at the time of Mrs. Woodside's investigation in 1947. The law, amended in 1933, provides for petitions for sterilization from mental institutions and the local departments of Welfare

Boards. The petition is mandatory, i.e. should be made in every case in which the legal provisions apply, but in fact is never carried through to actual operation against the consent of the individual and of his relatives. Only cases of epilepsy, mental disease and feeble-mindedness are covered. Intelligence tests are now a necessary part of the medical examination for feeble-mindedness, and only in exceptional cases is the petition passed by the Eugenics Board where the intelligence quotient is higher than 70 per cent. The official aim of the operation is that it should be in the interests of the individual, or of the public good, or in cases where children might be born who would have a tendency to serious physical, mental or nervous disease or epilepsy.

Therapeutic sterilizations on patients not covered by the Eugenics law are carried out at the discretion of doctors; and the gynaecologists vary in the strictness of the criterion they apply. Most normal people who are sterilized submit to the operation for a variety of reasons, among which multiparity usually bulks largely, but social grounds such as poverty may also enter.

Many more women are sterilized than men, despite the much greater simplicity of the operation in the male. One of the interesting results of Mrs. Woodside's research was to show the strong masculine bias against any interference with sexual structure, a bias much stronger than that found in the female. Even in the case of women, husbands often made as much or more difficulty about their wives being operated on, as did the women themselves.

In this book Mrs. Woodside provides a most interesting account of the operation of the Eugenics law and the administrative and social services connected with it. The attitude of the public, of medical men and officials is discussed, and it is noteworthy that of all of these the doctors are probably the most conservative. In the most personal part of the research Mrs. Woodside describes a follow-up of 48 women who had been sterilized. As there were difficulties in the way of studying cases of patients released from mental institutions, or sterilized under the Eugenics law, the patients she took were all normal women. Most of the women had been in poor or indifferent health before the operation, and nearly half of them thought there had been some improvement since; only three of the 48 thought their health had been worse. No noteworthy, least of all an unfavourable effect was noted on menstruation, libido, orgasm capacity or other aspects of sex life. The social effects were almost uniformly good, and even the recalcitrant husbands who had made difficulties about the operation before it was carried out, tended to change their tone afterwards. The elimination of anxiety about a further unwanted pregnancy and the stability of family size allowing more accurate planning for the future were among the main benefits.