was already established as a reliable measure of androgenic activity. It remained for these workers to devise an extraction method suitable for differentiating typical virilism cases (with symptoms of masculinisation in the female) from the normal female in respect of hormone activity. Discovery of such a method, details of which are given, enabled them to find in the urine of eleven cases of adrenal virilism "free" male hormone. This substance absent from normal female urine, is only present in small amounts in normal male urine. They found in addition an excessive amount of "bound" or "conjugated" hormone in cases of virilism. This substance, which is present in normal male urine, is present in only small amounts in normal female urine. In no case of virilism was there any grossly abnormal amount of oestrogenic hormone found in the urine. The authors then discuss the origin and nature of the male and female hormones. Acknowledging the highly speculative aspects of their views, they stress the intrinsic interest of the subject, at the same time that they point to the great amount of research which this approach opens out.

Professor Marrian and Dr. Butler discuss a substance, "triol", which they have isolated from the urine of cases of virilism. Since examination of a large number of other urine samples from normal men and women revealed no trace of this compound they suggest that it is specifically related to the pathological activity of the adrenal gland.

The above resumé of the work done by different specialists in their own particular field on the subject of the relation of the adrenal gland to sexuality, suffices to show the important results which may be obtained by such team-work. This particular example marks a definite step forward in the field of medicine. Moreover, as Sir Walter Langdon Brown says in the foreword, this subject does not concern medicine alone. Abnormal sex development not only causes a degree of suffering incommensurate to the physical abnormality, it also causes a degree of injury beyond the individual immediately concerned. The health and well-being of the community also enters into the question. This particular book has, therefore, many points of interest. Illustrating the way in which the combined attack of medical, surgical, psychological, histological and biochemical methods is able to accomplish

research work of particular value, it also points the way to further progress.

HILDA WEBER.

Manual of Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene.

By Aaron J. Rosanoff. Seventh edition, 1938. Pp. 1,024. 37/6 net. London, Chapman and Hall.

This, the seventh and latest edition of Rosanoff's *Manual of Psychiatry*, is a worthy successor of this well-known and much-read textbook. In view of the author's aims, maintained throughout successive editions, this is no light praise. In his own words the purpose of the book is the representation of material met with in the psychiatric clinic and the methods best fitted for dealing with it. These considerations in turn explain the many changes in the text. The noteworthy progress in psychiatry and allied fields since the appearance of the previous edition, some eleven years or so ago, has necessitated a considerable enlargement and much rearrangement of material. In connection with this new matter special mention may be made of the work on the relation of the various encephalides, of the avitaminoses and other nutritional disorders to the etiology and pathogenesis of many common neuro-psychiatric conditions. The improved methods of treating Syphilis, the recent findings in brain physiology, Pavlov's laboratory investigations and findings, are other subjects which are detailed. The study of the inter-relation of social and economic factors and their connection with the development of the individual and vice versa, further illustrates the wide range of subjects which the manual covers.

Dr. Rosanoff explicitly recognises that no individual working in this field can write a textbook upon the basis of his own experience alone. He has not hesitated, therefore, to incorporate important researches and views of other workers in their own words where this has conduced to clarity and vividness. In the field of psychotherapy, for example, though he himself stresses the importance of suggestion as a therapeutic factor, he recognises the value of Freud's work, and quotes from him at length. Otherwise, however, except for some words referring to Adler, he makes little reference to other workers in this field. It is to be hoped that a future edition will repair this omission.

On the whole the author shows careful judgment: he has selected from his own researches and opinions on the grounds of relevancy. In addition the inclusion of abundant case material enables the reader to judge for himself as to the value of the theories presented and the views set forth. Individual thought and initiative everywhere receives encouragement. Altogether a helpful and useful book.

HILDA WEBER.

Mental Therapy. Studies in Fifty Cases.

By Louis S. London, M.D. 2 Vols.
Covici Friede, New York. \$12.50.

Students of Medical Psychology, and especially intending therapists, suffer from a handicap which does not restrict those who study other branches of medicine, namely that the material which they study is only partially accessible to them.

The full clinical picture of a psychoneurosis can only be observed at first hand by the analyst who is treating the patient, since much of the picture only becomes visible during the course of the analysis. Even the direct clinical experience of the analyst himself is limited, in comparison with other medical specialists, by the large amount of time which must be devoted to each patient.

This restriction of direct access to clinical material can only be made good by the reading of reported case histories and analyses. The publication of such reports is, therefore, of peculiar importance both for students and for practitioners of the speciality.

Dr. Louis London's book consists of fifty case reports, with a short introductory section surveying the development of psycho-analysis, dreams, the psychic development of the child, and the pathology of the sexual instinct. In the chapter on this last subject, the author "expounds his own theory of the "traumatisation of the libido".

These early chapters seem less valuable than they might be. They are too condensed to be an adequate summary of psychopathology for the student and too superficial to interest the specialist. They serve, nevertheless, one useful purpose—namely, to indicate the type of technique employed by the author. That a collection of case histories should include some indication of

the technique by which the analytic material was elicited, is most desirable, and from Dr. London's introductory chapters we gather that his technique is modelled on that of Wilhelm Stekel.

The case histories themselves are grouped under the headings of "The Neuroses", "The Paraphiliac Neuroses", "The Borderline Neuroses", "Schizophrenia" and "Cyclothymia". Of the fifty case reports, twenty-two describe the borderline neuroses and the psychoses, while seventeen are devoted to sexual perversions. Of the remaining eleven case reports of psychoneurotics, five are hysterics, three are classed as anxiety neuroses, and three are obsessional.

This very unrepresentative allocation of numbers reflects one fault which pervades the whole book. It attempts to reach too wide an audience. It is most certainly desirable that the rarer forms of psychic illness should be adequately recorded. It is equally important that the student and general practitioner should have access to series of case histories of each common psychic illness, for only thus can they appreciate those origins and mechanisms which are common to all cases of that particular illness.

To attempt to do both, as this book does, is to fail. The cases of sexual perversion which in the book so far outnumber the much commoner psychoneuroses, give the student a completely false impression of their clinical frequency and importance, while the case reports are too superficial to interest the specialist.

The case reports themselves are naturally influenced by the author's technique, in which dream interpretation plays a large part. The history of each patient is given in some detail, but the descriptions of the analyses are less satisfactory, sometimes even being condensed to a short series of dreams and their interpretation.

To summarise—Dr. London appears to have attempted a double task: to write an analytical successor to Havelock Ellis's "Studies in the Psychology of Sex", and on the other hand to provide the student and general practitioner with case material with which they may supplement their clinical experience. His book shows that these two aims are incompatible.

R. H.