health) is dismissed as "super-ego religion". God is a "friendly" person, revealed in a very "human", "natural" and "friendly" Jesus—a Christ who, it is safe to assert, could not possibly have spoken more than (say) half of what is attributed to Him in the Gospels. To do justice to Dr. Lee, he would very likely agree that He could not have done so.

Whatever may be said about Freudian theory and practice, it is clear (and this book adds to the evidence) that they cannot be easily turned into an instrument for the criticism and reform of religion. If Dr. Lee had not claimed, in his preface, to demonstrate "how psycho-analysis can cleanse Christianity of non-Christian elements", it would have been easier for the sort of reader for whom his book is presumably intended to weigh his other assertion, that it can also "give deeper insights into the true qualities of human life". For in this (though the terms of reference are so widely and boldly drawn) he is more successful, and some of his *obiter dicta* are forceful and to the point.

G.L.R.

Mysterious Marriage. A Study of Morality of Personal Relationships and Individual Obsessions. By E. Graham Howe. Faber & Faber. 15s.

When one reads a book of Dr. Howe's, one is left at the end of it with a sense of frustration. One asks oneself if one is stupid and fails to understand the written word, or else one says to oneself that it is as wonderful and profound as a Stravinsky symphony of which one has understood only a fraction. For those who like an obscurantist approach, this book will stimulate a great deal of reflection, but whether it will help to make their own little rifts in the marital field narrower, is a matter for speculation.

A.T.

British Journal of Psychiatric Social Work. Obtainable from A.P.S.W., 1 Park Crescent, London, W.1. 3s. 6d.

The third number of the official organ of the Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, published in November, 1949, contains some extremely interesting and well-written articles by members of the Association. The subject matter is varied and covers a field as widely separated as the work of the Duly Authorized Officer and the responsibility of the Psychiatric Social Worker in helping the client to make full use of his religion. Of particular interest is the article on "Home and Career: Woman between two Worlds" which is the result of an investigation made by the Parents' Group of the Association, into the problem of the married woman with a professional career. Their generosity in allowing themselves to be used as guinea-pigs will be appreciated by those who are anxious to find a workable solution to this problem.

Apart from a note on the Second Assembly of the World Federation for Mental Health and one on the

Child Guidance Exhibition given by Hill End Clinic in 1947, no space has yet been allotted for news or book reviews. It is to be hoped that if and when the Journal is published more than once a year, these will be added.

C.H.S.

Mental Hygiene in Public Health. By P. V. Lemkau, M.D. McGraw Hill Book Co. 38s. 6d.

This book cannot be over-praised, because it opens a wide field for the activities of Medical Officers of Health. It arises as a result of a series of lectures given in an American University by a Public Health Officer, who has had the vision to see that mental health is as important as physical health.

The new Health Service Act has laid much stress on hospital and clinical care and treatment, but the preventive side of medicine has been passed by. It is very necessary that in the mental health world every measure should be taken to prevent the development of mental illness, or to arrest it as soon as detected. This means that a Public Mental Health Officer must be aware of the early signs and symptoms of deviations from normal mental health, and make arrangements for early treatment in the community to prevent the development of the illness to such an extent that the patient requires hospital care. To this end he must understand normal emotional development and the beginnings of emotional abnormality. Lemkau's book gives this understanding. He indicates the kind of preventive mental health service that could be set up and also describes the development of personality so that a clear picture is given of the strains and stresses that give rise to early mental illness.

A description is given of the various Mental Health Services in the different States in the United States, and one feels that although some of them are ahead of us, others are not so well organized.

If Medical Officers of Health are looking for a new field to conquer, they should buy this book and use it as a text-book for the development of an enlightened mental health service.

A.T.

The Hospitals Year Book, 1949-50. Institute of Hospital Administrators, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, W.C.1. 37s. 6d.

This weighty year book, of 1,100 pages, includes directories of Government Departments, Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees, Boards of Governors and Teaching Hospitals, Ministry of Pensions Hospitals and Voluntary Hospitals, Local Health Authorities and Executive Councils. An article on the Mental Health Services is contributed by Dr. Rees-Thomas.

Reference books as up to date as this one, are invaluable, and each such publication makes another welcome landmark in the still unfamiliar administrative landscape.