

Adolescence to Maturity. By Victor Chamberlain. The Bodley Head. 7/6.

This small book is another in the stream of information and advice to the adolescent. It is not easy to review except in terms of the curate's egg, for it is an odd mixture. In his foreword Mr. Chamberlain makes it clear that only one chapter is directed to the teacher—that on Sex, Love and Marriage; but this chapter is the best in the book and will help not only the teacher teach, but the adolescent (of all ages) overcome some of the common sexual difficulties; it is perhaps a pity that the author says little of the emotional and spiritual side.

Of his other chapters the largest is *Some Hints to the Art of Living*, and indeed these two occupy over two-thirds of the book, and it is not quite clear why these chapters on *Work and Leisure* and *Attitude to Life* are separated. These hints consist of a series of headings. *Imagination. Be Just. Facing the Facts*; under each is a concise and often epigrammatic set of maxims. There are a few inconsistencies but it would be unfair to take them too seriously and apart from them, the statements are unexceptionable. What matters more is the effect they will have on the adolescent to whom they are addressed. Mr. Chamberlain has been too strict and too concise, and his material will be too indigestible; one feels he has not sat down to think hard enough what he wants to say nor the needs of his audience, and has been carried away by his own brilliance to collect a glittering array of gems without a thread to string them on. Paradoxically, this part of his book may be more valuable for the teacher—and it will be valuable—though this is the opposite of his aim.

R.F.T.

To Define True Madness. Commonsense Psychiatry for Lay People.

Henry Yellowlees, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. Sidgwick & Jackson. 12/6.

This is a book written out of a very proper exasperation at the widespread misapprehension and ignorance with which the work of the psychiatrist is greeted today. Though the general public provides the background, it is the complacent generalisations of an ill-informed and pontifical legal profession which have generated the heat out of which Dr. Yellowlees has written. It is to be hoped, but not, alas, expected, that he may be widely read not only among the general practitioners but also by the august administrators of the Law! It is a not unnatural result of this preoccupation with the Law that the chapter on the legal aspects of insanity is by far the best in the book. It ought to have a salutary influence on that long overdue re-assessment of the position which the *Straffen* case, the subject of a characteristically pungent note, has forced upon all those both professional and private who are concerned with the administration of justice.