

might be engulfed. "How do you make worlds?" said a small boy. There are many ways of answering that question that might easily help to destroy the faculties of wonder and awe instead of encouraging them.

The short study of the development of a two-year-old is interesting and the chapters entitled "Back Stage" concerned with home life, discipline, security and orientation for the only child, are full of wisdom. This is a most attractive book, with its lovely photography of young children at play and its sympathetic and intuitive understanding of the inner experiences of the child mind.

E. D.

Psychopathic States. By D. K. Henderson, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, University of Edinburgh; Physician-Superintendent, Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders. Chapman & Hall. Pp. 178. 8/6.

Here we have a subject which, under various labels, has defied adequate definition. It is easier to say what psychopathic states are not, rather than what they are, and therefore this classification has been liable to be used as a dumping ground for conditions which do not conform to established clinical entities. The term psychopathic state does not apply to individuals who are mentally defective or frankly psychotic, but in Professor Henderson's words those "who throughout their lives, or from a comparatively early age, have exhibited disorders of conduct of an anti-social or asocial nature, usually of a recurrent or episodic type, which, in many instances, have proved difficult to influence by methods of social, penal and medical care and treatment. . . ." He speaks of "an instability, queerness, explosiveness, intuitiveness and egocentricity which form the picture of the psychopathic states".

This book, which is based on the Thomas W. Salmon Memorial Lectures given by the author, is divided into three main parts; the place of psychopathic states in Psychiatry, their clinical manifestations, and the needs for social rehabilitation. It is a strong plea for the study, understanding and remedial care of these cases. The author attempts the difficult task of classifying these states and suggests that they fall into three groups, based on personality types, namely, those who are predominantly aggressive, pre-

dominantly inadequate and predominantly creative. He inevitably raises the question of the relative importance of and relation between innate qualities and environmental influences in the causation of conduct disorders, and while not detailing his argument, seems to hold the view that constitutional loading is a more important factor than is generally recognised.

A particularly interesting feature is the illustrative clinical material in the form of numerous pithy case histories, and the book as a whole, with its practical appeal to all workers in the mental health field, is constantly stimulating of thought.

F. H.

Psychological Methods of Healing. By William Brown, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. University of London Press, 7/6.

The preface states that this book aims at outlining the main schools of thought in medical psychology, and giving an accurate statement of the writer's own views. It fulfils its aim, although it would seem that the several chapters on suggestion, hypnosis, etc., might well have been condensed and run together; whereas in their present form (where papers delivered at various conferences are reported) the subject occupies too large a space in relationship to the rest of the book. Thus laymen may be led to think too much of suggestion methods and too little of analytical, although the latter are usually admitted to be far more fundamental and important.

Dr. Brown makes a clear case of the correct way to use hypnosis, i.e., as a means of getting the patient to relax the convulsive grip by means of which he keeps dissociated material out of sight, and so allowing him to bring it to the surface. And the point is made that hypnosis can only legitimately be used in such a way as gradually to diminish the ability of the therapist to hypnotise his patient, because he is becoming a more integrated and positive personality as a result of it: a point too little regarded by many so-called psychotherapists.

For the rest, we are given a clear outline of Freud's and Adler's psychologies, and an adequate though necessarily incomplete study of Jung, with critical comments on these. The only point at which I join issue with the author is in over-valuing the Oedipus Complex, by taking it as a radical factor in the causation of neurosis and giving it an absolute value, instead of seeing

it as a part of a much deeper and more philosophically real system.

In short, this is a good introduction to psychotherapy in general, and being easy to read, it is one to be recommended to the beginner.

L. J. B.

The Public Attitude Towards Mental Disease and Urgent Reasons for Early Treatment. By Horace Hill, M.R.C.P., Medical Superintendent, Laverstock House, Salisbury. Bennet Bros., The Journal Office, Canal, Salisbury, 1/6.

This little book is based on long experience in dealing with mental patients and their relatives, and contains information and advice of the kind that should be of real help to anyone confronted with the practical issues raised by mental breakdown.

Dr. Hill seeks to disabuse his readers of the idea that there is a special "stigma" attached to this type of illness and to urge a new attitude towards it which will prevent hesitancy to procure the skilled early treatment upon which so much depends.

The subject is treated in the simplest possible manner, and in an almost colloquial style and the booklet could be used with advantage by the social worker or the general practitioner in discussing with relatives the many and urgent problems which mental illness brings in its train.

Boys in Trouble. A Study of Adolescent Crime and its Treatment. By L. Le Mesurier, O.B.E., with a Foreword and Afterword by Alexander Paterson, M.C., Commissioner of Prisons. 2nd Edition. John Murray, 3/6.

The First Edition of this book was published in 1931 and the necessity for the present reprint arises, as Mr. Paterson states in his new *Afterword*, "from a growing interest in the adolescent offender, and from the fact that this is still the best book on the subject."

In a new chapter, "After Nine Years," the Criminal Justice Bill is discussed and other changes and developments are noted which bring the book right up to date, and make it one which, now that it can be procured at such a modest price, any social worker to whom it is as yet unknown should hasten to acquire.

A. L. H.

Out of the Running. By G. Gertrude Hoopes. With a Foreword by Edgar A. Doll, Ph.D., Department of Research, Vineland Training School, and with Clinical Notes by Winthrop M. Phelps, M.D., Director of Children's Rehabilitation Institute, Baltimore. Chas. C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. \$2.00.

The author of this autobiography has suffered since birth from grave physical handicaps. To quote from a medical report on her condition:—

"She is about the size of a child of twelve. . . . She is practically mute, never trying to talk. . . . The muscles of the face, especially the frontalis and masseter muscles, are in constant motion. The tongue is moved continuously from side to side, protruded, retracted, never still for a moment. The head is jerked forward, backward, from one side to the other. The shoulders are from time to time elevated and depressed."

Until the age of 45 she was able, though with difficulty, to walk; then an accident deprived her even of this limited freedom of movement and since that time she has only been able to move about by using a specially constructed tricycle.

Nevertheless this book is a record of achievement despite almost heartbreaking difficulties. At the end of it we leave the author living a life enriched by her spiritual vitality (she is a devout Catholic), by the mental alertness which enables her to listen with zest to radio talks and discussions, by a power of aesthetic appreciation which finds delighted satisfaction in the great music which reaches her through the same channel, by practical ingenuity through which she is able to use a typewriter (albeit with one finger only) to communicate with others through a shorthand sign language, and even to play a little on the piano.

Just as Helen Keller's autobiography brought a message of courage and hope to the blind and deaf mute, so will our present author's bring such a message to those who are "out of the running" through grave physical deformity. Equally to relatives and social workers concerned with their welfare should the book be of value in increasing understanding, deepening respect and encouraging an attitude of faith in the hidden