Psychoanalysis and Culture. George B. Wilbur and Warner Muensterberger, editors. 462 pages. Cloth. International Universities Press. New York. 1951. Price $10.00.

This volume, devoted to culture and personality, sociology, epistemology, mythology, linguistics, art and literature, is dedicated to Géza Róheim on his sixtieth birthday, September 12, 1951. It is a very fine presentation of psychoanalysis in anthropology, in which field Róheim was the pioneer. Contributors include George Devereux, Karl A. Menninger, Clyde Kluckhohn, Marie Bonaparte, George B. Wilbur, Edmund Bergler and Geraldine Pederson-Krag, among other distinguished workers. This is a very fine tribute and a most worthwhile study of the world-encircling human experience of which psychiatry is a specialty. This volume should be particularly rewarding to the armchair anthropologist and of interest to all other informed persons concerned with human personal and social problems.

Perception. An Approach to Personality. By Robert R. Blake, Ph.D., and Glenn V. Ramsey, Ph.D., in collaboration with Frank A. Beach, Ph.D. Urie Bronfenbrenner, Ph.D., Jerome S. Bruner, Ph.D., Norman Cameron, M.D., Ph.D., Wayne Dennis, Ph.D., Else Frenkel-Brunswick, Ph.D., Ernest R. Hilgard, Ph.D., George S. Klein, Ph.D., Alfred Korzybski, James G. Miller, M.D., Ph.D., Louis J. Moran, Ph.D., Clifford T. Morgan, Ph.D., and Carl R. Rogers, Ph.D. 422 pages. Cloth. Ronald Press. New York. 1951. Price $6.00.

To provide a comprehensive as well as integrated survey of recent research in perception, is not a small task. Yet 15 outstanding psychologists have admirably succeeded in combining their contributions in such a way that the 13 chapters of this book follow logically upon each other, each incorporating the trend of all the previous ones. This symposium aims to study personality from the perceptual viewpoint. The book is much broader in scope than its aim would imply. Pathological aspects, as well as the normal, receive attention. There is much historical background of experimental research in perception and personality, which makes the book valuable as a reference work. The many new hypotheses advanced and the practical suggestions for further experimental work should stimulate the researcher and theorist.

A few of the significant points brought out by the symposium follow. A theory of perception should be able to explain how differences in per-
ceiving characterize different personality constellations. Besides the basic structural and chemical determinants of perception, there are the cultural, developmental, and other experiential determinants. Principles of normal perception can be used to explain delusion formation in the abnormal. Functionally, our perceptions provide environmental stability and give definiteness to what we perceive. It is chiefly unconscious perceptions which determine effective adjustment to reality.

This well-written and stimulating book should be read by every advanced student of personality.

**A Primer for Psychotherapists.** By Kenneth M. Colby, M.D. 167 pages. Cloth. Ronald Press. New York. 1951. Price $3.00.

Dr. Colby has contributed a helpful elementary handbook on a difficult subject. Within a few pages he has outlined his theory, defined his concepts, explained the roles of therapist and patient, and followed through in detail the beginning, middle, and end course of the psychotherapy of the neuroses. A concluding chapter discusses the detection and psychotherapy of mild cases of schizophrenia. Verbatim accounts of interviews and specific practical advice about what to do under various circumstances add much value to the book.

The author’s psychotherapy is similar to psychoanalysis in theory, but differs somewhat in application. In Colby’s type, the therapist takes a more active part, treatment is not so prolonged, and dreams and early childhood are not so thoroughly investigated. The author’s goal in psychotherapy is a modest one—to provide relief from present neurotic troubles. In the beginning stages of therapy, the therapist primarily asks questions and makes interpositions. He formulates his dynamic workable diagnosis, determines the suitability of the patient for therapy, and decides whether to use chiefly covering or uncovering therapy. During the first interviews, the patient also becomes acquainted with the interview technique.

During the middle course of therapy, which is aimed at freeing the ego of its wish-defense conflicts, the psychotherapist uses interpositions and interpretations as his main tools. The proper frequency and timing of these techniques, as well as a permissive attitude, help to weaken the patient’s resistance. Transferences aid the therapist to understand the patient and to plan the future course of the therapy. In “working through,” the mechanisms of recollection, reconstruction, re-experiencing, and repetition come into play. The termination of therapy occurs when either the psychotherapist’s limited aim is satisfied and the patient can be tactfully induced to end treatment, or when the patient wishes to stop.

This book is highly recommended to beginners in psychotherapy.
A Study of Epilepsy in Its Clinical, Social and Genetic Aspects.

By CARL HENRY ALSTRÖM. 284 pages including pedigree charts, 30 tables and figures, extensive bibliography and index. Paper. Acta Psychiatrica et Neurologica, Supplementum 63, 1950. Ejnar Munksgaard, Nørregade 6—Copenhagen. Price: 20 Swedish crowns.

This study of epilepsy is the result of a five-year research project carried out at the famous neurological clinic of the Caroline Institute at the Serafimer Hospital in Stockholm. Eight hundred and ninety-seven outpatients with convulsive disorders and their nearest relatives in the ascending and descending line were examined with regard to their prognostic courses and their genetic implications. The stimulus for these investigations was a 200-year-old Swedish law which prohibits marriage to persons suffering from epilepsy and which has created problems calling for a review of its justification.

The author presents an extremely interesting study of epilepsy from every aspect in 897 families (in which the cases of 16 pairs of twins are included!). These important investigations, especially those referring to the significance and evaluation of electro-encephalographic examinations, must be studied in detail in the original monograph. The author comes in his final conclusions to the recommendation for repeal of the law.

Physicians and social workers, as well as geneticists, will find indispensable material in this profound study.

Der Gestaltkreis. Theorie der Einheit von Wahrnehmen und Bewegen.

Fourth edition. (The Gestalt Circle. Theory of the Unity of Perception and Motion.) By VIKTOR VON WEIZSACKER. 203 pages. Cloth. George Thieme-Verlag. Stuttgart. 1950. Price $4.65.

This Heidelberg professor's book originally appeared in 1939. It is divided into five parts: Introduction, Pathological Disturbances of the Nervous System, The Conditions of Perception, The Conditions of Motion, The Gestalt Circle. The very thorough discussion of theoretical neurology contains many illustrations from the clinical and experimental fields. The contributions of earlier centuries and of many countries are cited.

The Gestalt circle is considered by the author to be a most important concept. Dr. Weizsacker defines it as the integration, the unity of the subject-object dualism. Perhaps, if completely accepted in theoretical implications, it would do away with the dualism of psyche and soma in the interpretation of human behavior. Principles of biology and medicine, as well as of psychology and philosophy, are used to derive this hypothesis of the integrated unity of perception and motion. The psychiatrist and neurologist who, besides having a reading knowledge of German, also enjoys following theoretical lines of thought of a complex nature, will find this book stimulating. Explanations of new terms as used by Dr. Weizsacker are given in the appendix, as well as detailed references.
Neurology and Psychiatry in General Practice. Henry R. Viets, M. D., editor, in collaboration with C. Charles Burlingame, M. D., Clarence B. Farrar, M. D., and Z. M. Lebensohn, M. D. X and 150 pages including index. Cloth. Grune & Stratton. New York. 1950. Price $3.50.

This little book is the condensed residue of papers presented as lectures at the clinical session of the American Medical Association in December 1949. It is molded into a concise review of the present state of the major everyday problems of neurology and psychiatry as they are met in the general practitioner’s office. It is neither a text nor a reference book; it is free from theoretical diversions and avoids successfully an indulgence in modernistic psychologic redundancy. But the well-chosen selection of the subjects, and the able handling of the material in preciseness and presentation, places this book in a special category of professional literature. The terminology is clear; diagnosis, treatment and prognosis are discussed in a critical and definite manner.

The neurological part discusses questions on epilepsy, Parkinsonism, rehabilitation, neurosyphilis, evaluation of the EEG, and a competent approach to the problem of headache.

The second part—dealing with psychiatric problems—gives information and advice in an unusually clear and competent way on the most urgent actual questions physicians are asked daily. The chapters on alcoholism, electric convulsive therapy and psychosurgery, short as they are, will give sufficient satisfactory information.

Altogether: This is a competent and recommendable book which should be very welcome to every physician for its clearness, conciseness and pertinent information on actual questions.

Basic Psychiatry. By Edward A. Strecker, M. D. 458 pages. Cloth. Random House. New York. 1952. Price $3.75.

One can correctly identify this book as a textbook of psychiatry for the layman. No psychiatrist is better qualified than Dr. Strecker to write such a book. His long and wide experience and his many years in his work have mellowed his thinking to a point where he can impart to the average person a broad understanding of the human side of mental illness.

As just suggested, Basic Psychiatry has the pattern of a textbook, but it is written in easily understandable language with many short examples and descriptions of mentally ill persons whom Dr. Strecker has treated. The causes, the classification, the description of each type of mental illness, and treatment in general are described. Finally, Dr. Strecker closes with three brief chapters: "The Silver Cord," "A Design for Childhood" and "The Psychiatry of War."
Manic-Depressive Psychosis and Allied Conditions. By LEOPOLD BELLAK, M. D. 246 pages. Cloth. Grune & Stratton. New York. 1952. Price $9.75.

To the author with his collaborators, psychiatric investigators are indebted for tireless efforts in collecting, in one volume, brief reviews of articles written about a major mental illness. This review of the manic-depressive psychoses follows the pattern used by the author in a previous excellent volume, Dementia Praecox.

In the introduction, the author presents his "multiple-factor psychosomatic theory of manic-depressive psychosis." This theory is very similar to, and, in parts, the same as, that expressed in his article relative to the "multiple-factor theory of schizophrenia" published in this QUARTERLY, October 1949.

Following the introduction the book is divided into two parts. Part I reviews literature written relative to vital statistics, etiology, physiopathological and psychopathological studies, symptomatology and diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and prevention of manic-depressive psychosis. This psychosis in childhood is also reviewed.

Part II reviews "Allied Conditions" such as psychotic reactions in pregnancy, involutorial psychoses, reactive depressions, depression in old age, and suicide.

The book contains a huge bibliography and a complete index.

In this volume, the author does not critically analyze the literature reviewed. He presents the material in such a well-organized manner that the book will be of much value to psychiatric libraries and to the psychiatric profession in general.

Special Pathology of the Diseases of the Central and Peripheral Nervous System. By GERD PETERS, professor of neurology and psychiatry at the University of Bonn. XVI and 437 pages including 214 illustrations, introduction, material and bibliographic index. Cloth. Georg Thieme Verlag. Stuttgart. 1951. (Agents for United States: Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York.) Price $13.20.

This new textbook of special neuropathology is the first of its kind in the German medical literature. It follows the best tradition of German textbooks and is the equal of similar texts in other languages. Although the descriptive histopathology of the clinical syndromes is in the foreground, physiology and pathogenesis are integrated in a good, didactic manner. The international literature is extensively utilized and excellent macro- and microphotographic reproductions in black and white illustrate the text to its advantage.

This is altogether an outstanding example of thorough German, encyclopedic textbooks, worthy of the great neuropathologist, Walter Spielmeyer, to whose memory it is dedicated.
Lehrbuch der Traumanalyse. (Textbook for Dream Analysis.) By Harald Schultz-Hencke. 283 pages. Cloth. Georg Thieme Verlag. Stuttgart. 1949. Price 24 marks.

Professor Schultz-Hencke has written this book to outline a picture of what is known about dream analysis today. Although based on the interpretation of about 50,000 dreams, it is not a primer to instruct people in analyzing dreams, but rather a work to give them a background for this very important technique.

Dr. Schultz-Hencke who has been a practising psychoanalyst in Berlin for many years, with the exception of the years under Hitler, divides his text into five major parts. First, under the heading, "Anthropological Background," he discusses many concepts of depth psychology, like drives, fears, adjustment to conflict, inhibitions. He practically outlines something like an anthropological psychology.

Next, in "The Dream as a Mirror of Actual Experiences," the theory of neurosis, symbolism in dreams, imagination are analyzed among other topics. Ideas—witty, sublime, analytical, integrating—are some of the subtopics in part C, "The Natural Environment of Dreams." In part D, the "Dream Under Artificial Conditions," as in psychoanalysis, free association, etc., is discussed.

The final hundred pages contain model illustrations for systematic dream interpretation. Dreams are classifiable under the three major drives—the drives for possession, for power, and for sexual satisfaction.

The author includes a great variety of illustrations. He repeatedly warns the novice to shy away from oversimplification in trying to find the deeper meanings of another person's dream. Professor Schultz-Hencke's volume will be of interest and full of suggestions to any person who is involved in counseling, as well as to analysts. His modesty in under-rather than overstressing his system and his interpretations as the only correct ones, will be appreciated by every serious social scientist.

This work certainly should be translated into the English language.

Proceedings of the Second Clinical ACTH Conference. John R. Mote, M. D., editor. Two Volumes: I, Research, 531 pages, 276 figures, 52 tables; II, Therapeutics, 716 pages, 311 figures, 81 tables. Blakiston. Philadelphia, New York, Toronto. 1951. Price $8.50 a volume.

Following the lines of the first conference on ACTH, the report of the second is complete, well arranged and well edited. The first volume, which includes the papers on research, indicates the wide general effects of ACTH on metabolism. The value of the research papers is in the original figures, charts and findings, from which the reader may come to his own conclusions. The electrolyte-conscous surgeon or physician may find some of his answers here. Many of the metabolic studies on proteins, car-
Carbohydrates, fats and vitamins have clarified some of the controlling factors in health and disease. Those interested in the study and treatment of inflammation, can find a new powerful method in the use of ACTH.

The second volume includes the wide experience of numerous clinicians in the direct application of ACTH and adrenal products to their clinical problems. By getting an over-all view of the cases—with their successes and failures—one can get an inkling as to the direction in which ACTH may be very necessary in the future. (The reviewer believes a distinction must always be kept in mind between stimulating the adrenal by ACTH, and substituting for the adrenal by cortical substances; the latter may cause atrophy of a specific function of the adrenal.) Several papers indicate the value of ACTH in maintaining "well-being" or achieving clinical improvement in burns, post-operative states and infections; but definitely show that this improvement is temporary unless the cause is removed or bacteria are destroyed by other means. The new papers confirm the effectiveness of ACTH in collagen diseases. One can assume that in many diseases there is an associated metabolic disturbance, probably on the basis of adrenal or pituitary change in which there is a need for ACTH as a regulatory mechanism.

Processes of Cerebral Atrophy Occurring During Middle Age and Their Psychiatric Symptomatology. (Hirnatropische Prozesse im mittleren Lebensalter und ihre psychischen Erscheinungsbilder. By Dr. med. FRIEDRICH WILHELM BRONISCH, Privatdocent for psychiatry and neurology, scientific assistant in the psychiatric and neurologic clinic of the University of Heidelberg. 105 pages with 43 reproductions of x-ray pictures of the skull. Paper. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. 1951. Grune & Stratton, American agents. Price DM 12.60.

The author tries to establish a syndrome of neuro- and psychopathologic symptomatology with common organic findings of atrophic cerebral processes. He justifies his concept mainly by the results of encephalograms (made by the cisternal route). He finds, in all of his cases, hydrocephalus externus and internus, the former more marked than the latter. Fourteen of his own cases are systematically reviewed. They comprise the most different diseases: e. g., "diffuse sclerosis, diffuse infiltrative encephalomyelitis, multiple sclerosis, panencephalitis, meningo-leukeacephalitis, cerebral thromboangiitis obliterans, spastic pseudosclerosis," etc.

The reviewer doubts the necessity, from a clinical or didactic viewpoint, of forcing clear pathological entities into the frame and under the heading of a new syndrome characterized by a single common pathogenetic sign which might even be temporary.

The recorded cases have a certain value as casuistry. The bibliography is restricted to the German literature.
Brain Metabolism and Cerebral Disorders. By Harold E. Himwich, M. D. 368 pages. Cloth. Williams & Wilkins. Baltimore. 1951. Price $6.00.

The author, clinical research chief, Army Chemical Center, Maryland, states that this is a review of the subject of brain metabolism. He believes that such a review is "an aid in giving direction to future research, research which has already begun to throw new light on some disease processes." This subject is one which Dr. Himwich has investigated for some time; and any person interested in brain metabolism should profit tremendously by reading this book and keeping it in his library.

Because the book contains such a tremendous lot of information requiring endless space for a review, it seems best to quote a small part of the author's introduction: "... the first part 'Energetics,' the methods by which energy is elaborated, as well as distributed to support nervous activity. The second part, entitled 'Patterns of Nervous Activity,' explains energetics in terms of behavior. Though the emphasis in Part I is laid on cellular physiology and biochemistry, whereas the second part is more concerned with the integrated action of the various portions comprising the central nervous system, still each is dependent upon the other; the first part describes the processes necessary to support nervous activity, and the latter handles the problem of how the nervous system carries on at the expense of the energy elaborated within it."

There are portions of the book which will be of special interest to the clinician. These parts refer to the study of changes in cerebral metabolic rates during anesthesia, hypoglycemia, avitaminoses, alcoholic comas and drug intoxication, as well as metabolic changes following brain injury.

The bibliography contains 1,042 references. There are, also, author and subject indices.

Genetics in the 20th Century. Essays on the Progress of Genetics During Its First 50 Years. L. C. Dunn, editor. 634 pages. Cloth. Macmillan. New York. 1951. Price $5.00.

This valuable volume comprehensively covers the many facets of the science of genetics in a well-organized group of papers by today's most distinguished geneticists. It is a compilation of papers presented at the Golden Jubilee of Genetics held on September 11-14, 1950. Outstanding investigators met from all parts of the world to discuss the origin and remarkable developments in this fascinating new science. The applications in genetic research of biometry, biochemistry, biophysics and immunology are presented. The discussion progresses to the role of genetics in modern fields of medicine, sociology, anthropology, plant and animal breeding, and plant pathology, furnishing a clear concept of the contributions made by genetics in its brief existence to biological fields.
The Rose Tattoo. By Tennessee Williams. 144 pages. Cloth. New Directions. New York. 1951. Price $3.00.

The impact of love on the heart and the conditions of its unfoldment are symbolized by the rose in mystical philosophy and by the rose tattoo in this play.

The author confesses that "men pity and love each other more deeply than they permit themselves to know." Thus Serafina, imprisoned in her love for her dead husband, almost wrecks the life of Rosa, her daughter, before she realizes that she too must choose to put love first.

Like all Williams' plays this one has its measure of sadness, gloom and tragic intensity but unlike most of them its people finally achieve some insight into each other's needs.

Serafina's regeneration through the needs of the lonely Alvara, Jack's almost bitter capitulation to the spiritual self that Rosa sees in him are threads that flash briefly but brightly against a somber background of poverty, hate and depression. Like a Greek chorus with strophe and antistrophe, the evil and the good in man advance and retreat as scene after scene makes dramatic progression with extraordinary force and power.

Children Discover Arithmetic. An Introduction to Structural Arithmetic. By Catherine Stern. 295 pages with illustrations. Cloth. Harper. New York. 1951. Price $4.50.

Dr. Stern's book will appeal to teachers, psychologists and parents. It describes a new approach to teaching arithmetic to young children. Its author, director of the Castle School at New York, has developed her method empirically and bases it on the principles of teaching and learning of the Gestalt school.

It is a well-known fact that many adults fear the very word arithmetic and shy away from any kind of mathematics, because in their grade-school days their learning of the number concepts had been a painful and dull one with a great deal of rote memorizing. Dr. Stern's method, however, is full of intrinsic motivation. She uses the manipulation and pattern-making of colored blocks to guide children in their discovery of mathematical rules, and in conveying number concepts to them. From block games, the child progresses to mastery of addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, denominate numbers and fractions.

The new approach does not produce pupils who mechanically supply correct responses, but it makes children think. The concept of learning as the result of mere repetition, or drill is condemned. But, of course, the child is encouraged, and usually is anxious, to practise a new principle on many examples.

Records and photographs convey to the reader how much the children enjoy Dr. Stern's approach. This is in spite of the fact that she pur-
posely refrains from embellishing her straight numbers with dolls, cats and dogs, etc., for she insists that extrinsic motivation is to be discarded. The teacher also will enjoy this new approach, as she is spared the pointing out of errors, as the child discovers them on his own with Dr. Stern's materials. Despite the emphasis on concrete manipulation of blocks and other material, which, by the way, can be purchased through the author, the child will be thrilled to find that, after the initial period, he is able to work examples the quick way, on paper or in his head.

Dr. Stern dedicates her book to Dr. Max Wertheimer, one of the late founders of Gestalt psychology, as a sign of her gratitude for his inspiration. The reviewer feels that Children Discover Arithmetic, with its simple, non-technical language, will be an inspiration to parents and educators, and will add insight to psychologists into the Gestalt principles of teaching and learning.

Hypnoidal Psychotherapy. By Margaret Steger, Ph.D. 150 pages. Cloth. Froben Press. New York. 1951. Price $3.50.

The author has studied both Freudian and Jungian analysis extensively, but in her own work she adheres strictly to neither school. Psychotherapy is instituted while the subject is in a hypnoidal state, between sleeping and waking, as opposed to a hypnotic state, which the author considers to be unnatural and somewhat similar to hysteria—not conducive to free, undamaging, self-expression. For hypnoidal psychotherapy to be successful, there must be a high degree of rapport with the therapist, and care must be taken by the therapist that ideas foreign to the conscious state are not introduced. Anamnestic analysis, with its exploration of the preconscious, is used as a starting point before the patient is put into the hypnoidal state and no attempt is made actually to explore the unconscious.

That Degenerate Spirochete. By Oscar Daniel Meyer, M. D. 320 pages. Cloth. Vantage. New York. 1952. Price $5.00.

This is a book on syphilis by a syphilologist who is also a devoutly religious man. His title is based on the theory that Treponema pallidum or spirochaeta pallida, which is the term used in this book, may be derived from part of the tail of the human protozoon by a degenerative process. He attributes such disorders as tuberculosis, influenza, leprosy and gonorrhea to further degeneration or mutation of the syphilis spirochete. There is "little doubt in my mind," he says, that syphilis figures in the etiology of dementia praecox and a list of other disorders generally classified as psychiatric, including neurasthenia, psychasthenia, migraine and hysteria. His discussion and methods of prevention are moralistic.
General Theory of Neuroses. By Rudolf Brun, M. D. vii and 469 pages. Cloth. International Universities Press. New York. 1951. Price $10.00.

In writing of the neuroses, Dr. Brun follows Freud's theories, and, in places, extends them. The neuroses are divided into two groups, the vegetative, or actual, neuroses, and the true psychoneuroses or conversion neuroses. In the first group, fall the neurasthenias, the anxiety neuroses, and the fright neuroses. In these, "The primary pathological motive is to be sought not within the psyche, but in the vegetative cerebral centers; though not in the shape of structural lesions, but merely in the form of changes in the excitation potential and the distribution of stimuli within this apparatus." In the second group, are the hysterias, phobias, and obsessional neuroses where "we find primary affective disorders on the basis of the unconscious instinctual conflict." To these two groups, must be added the mixed types which are classified as mixed neuroses.

In the individual, there is a strong tendency for a conversion neurosis to become superimposed upon the actual neurosis, and the symptoms of the conversion neurosis may persist long after the original cause for the actual neurosis has disappeared. The Freudian view that masturbation could be a causative factor in neurasthenia is not held plausible, because, even if a partner is lacking in the autoerotic act, "in most cases the motor and psychic discharge of sexual affect is just as complete as in the normal sexual act." The cause is "excessive demand upon the vegetative nervous system," usually prolonged, but occasionally of sudden onset. The cause of anxiety neurosis is summarized as "damming up of the libido." This book will be found valuable by many as a statement of essentially Freudian theories, with perhaps a bit more stress put upon neurological aspects. Adequate circulation, however, is likely to be hampered by the high price.

Theory and Practice of Social Case Work. By Gordon Hamilton. 317 pages. Cloth. Columbia University Press. New York. 1951. Price $4.00.

This new edition of a work that first appeared in 1940 has been re-edited, with care being taken to eliminate some of the defects of the original. A clear differentiation between psychotherapy and psychoanalysis has now been made. Limited psychotherapy, based on psychoanalytic principles and using the diagnostic statement as a foundation, is discussed as a method of treatment. Through the conscious use of psychological processes, the caseworker attains a greater degree of control in the therapeutic relationship. The material is largely theoretical, since previous case material has been curtailed. The book will be used primarily as a text in schools of social work, and the greater care taken in terminology will enhance its value to all.
The Child Guidance Approach to Juvenile Delinquency. By Eugene Davidoff and Elinor S. Noetzell. 173 pages. Cloth. Child Care Publications. New York. 1951. Price $4.50.

This book attempts the difficult task of outlining a program of therapy for children with conduct disorders. Juvenile delinquents are grouped into three broad types: the "protracted," the less serious "intermediate," and the "early"—which includes the pre-delinquent. Each type is then described behaviorally and evaluated in terms of accessibility for treatment. In a brief chapter on reactions to story and drama techniques, the authors report that delinquent groups showed less creative ability and less sustained group effort and interest than normal school children of comparable ages. Under the heading, "The Treatment of Pathological Liars," relatively extensive discussion is devoted to various forms of lying. Suggested treatment takes into account the unmet needs that are compensated for by lying, and is based on a blend of psychoanalytic theory and intuitive common sense.

In emphasizing the function of the child guidance clinic as headquarters for the diagnosis and treatment of children with conduct disorders, the authors wisely recognize the need for close co-operation with local community agencies and families. The problems that juvenile delinquents exhibit are evaluated in terms of the social environments to which they must ultimately return.

This book has merit in offering many sound recommendations for an ideal child guidance clinic, although the proposed arrangements are probably far from realization without extensive financial backing. Unfortunately for the book, too many aspects of the delinquency problem are covered, and many loose generalities mar the effect of sections which are more carefully presented. Although written primarily for the psychiatrist and the social worker, other professional workers dealing with this problem might find this work useful if only to stimulate self-appraisal in their jobs, and to impress them with the importance of their responsibility.

Guilt. By Caryll Houselander. vi and 279 pages. Cloth. Sheed & Ward. New York. 1951. Price $3.75.

This book is a study, from the Roman Catholic and Jungian point of view, of the psychological processes of modern man. The author believes that one of the major disorders today is an "ego neurosis" caused by a sense of guilt in the person. This sense of guilt may manifest itself in many ways, the one constant factor being a feeling of frustration or "incompleteness" in the person. The cure, according to the author, can only be arrived at by the person realizing his own oneness with Christ. There are many short case studies included. They are far too short to be useful from the psychiatric viewpoint.
The Cost of a Best Seller. By Frances Parkinson Keyes. 126 pages.
Messner. New York. 1950. Price $2.00.

The author, who has written several popular books reaching the best seller list, presents herself as a professional producer of this commodity, and compiles her grievances. Taxes are high; work is hard; success comes late; intentions are misunderstood; critics are unjust; literary aspirations unfulfilled ("it was originally my hope to be regarded as a woman of letters rather than as a best selling author") some readers are malicious; autograph hunters tiresome; social obligations exhausting, collecting of source material exasperating; deadlines pressing; illnesses painful. Of course, the serious reader would prefer to hear about the psychological reasons for writing. Rather naively, we are informed that the author seldom "feels like doing it [writing]" and that you either have or don't have "that little God-given spark we call talent." In enumerating the reasons why the drudgery goes on, only conventional and conscious mechanisms are mentioned, although a few conscientious scruples concerning such things as choice of words, inclusion of a missing cat, or the characteristics of a pawnbroker, in a story, are accidentally reported. This honest, friendly description of an injustice collector confirms the notion that the popular (and even less popular) writer has in general no idea what propels him (her). The old advice to the reader is also confirmed: Stick to the entertaining book, and avoid any personal (or hearsay) contact with its producer; otherwise, you will be disillusioned.

We of Nagasaki. The Story of the Survivors in an Atomic World.
By Takashi Nagai. xv and 187 pages. Cloth. Duell, Sloan and Pearce. New York. 1951. Price $2.75.

Eyewitness accounts of the terrifying and devastating explosion of the atomic bomb in Nagasaki, comprise We of Nagasaki, by Takashi Nagai. The book is well translated by Ichiro Shirato and Herbert Silverman.

The stories of survival are told in simple and understandable language by eight individuals, all of whom are relatives or neighbors of the author. Their personal descriptions of the mighty blast, where they were at the time and why, what they did following the explosion and what scars—both internal and external—were left with them, are embodied in each of the narratives.

Undoubtedly, in compiling these stories, it was the author's intention to remind us all, through the impressions of the contributors to the little book of how the atom bomb has affected the world. In his attempt to shock people who do not fully realize the frightful effects of the bomb, Dr. Nagai has omitted none of the horrifying, and even ghastly, experiences from any of the individual stories.
The final chapter of *We of Nagasaki* is the author’s own recollection of the incident, for he, too, was an eyewitness. This part of the book closely resembles—and could easily be used as—a sermon, a plea to the world not to underestimate the consequences of an atomic war which might easily exterminate the human race and its culture. Over six years have elapsed since the explosion in Nagasaki; and Dr. Nagai, whose wife was killed in the raid, cannot emphasize strongly enough the moral after-effects the bomb can have. To him, this is of even greater significance than the physical effects, for physical survival and reconstruction are possible; only the memories, the psychological effects, the chasms in personal relationships of the survivors remain, and affect their lives for all time.

We may never know, argues the author of *We of Nagasaki*, the psychological upheaval that can never be repaired which can be caused by atomic bombs. With this theme, then, this book might well be read by Americans who feel secure in the belief that the United States is impregnable. As a result, such individuals will be more humble—and more realistic—when they speak of war and of the possibilities of using our men and weapons indiscriminately. For spiritual and psychological wreckage, more vast than the material, must now result from wars.

**The Scalpel of Scotland Yard:** The Life of Sir Bernard Spilsbury. By Douglas G. Browne and E. V. Tullett. 490 pages. Cloth. Dutton. New York. 1952. Price $5.00.

This is a biography of a British doctor who, by the meticulous application of medical science, did much to further forensic medicine. Dr. Spilsbury was pathologist at St. Mary’s Hospital in London, and for many years was associated with the British Home Office and Scotland Yard. Many interesting criminal cases in which Dr. Spilsbury’s medical analyses were of value are recounted. The authentic presentation of small details connected with the cases serves to highlight the telling and add interest. Unfortunately, the authors have a habit of looking ahead and telling the reader what they are going to report to him, a habit which tends to cause pedantry and detracts from the readability of the book.

**The Last House.** By Gina Dessart. 239 pages. Cloth. Harper. New York. 1950. Price $2.50.

The dust jacket of *The Last House* describes it as a suspense novel. It is a “psychological” tale of murder; it obviously owes something to Hawthorne’s *Scarlet Letter*; and the psychology is conventional textbook material. This reviewer has no fault to find with the dynamics, but the characters seem to expound them mechanically rather than live them. The solution is so far from the trend of the story that it seems virtually a *dea ex machina*; and the *machina* creaks.
The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone. By Tennessee Williams. 148 pages. Cloth. New Directions. New York. 1950. Price $2.00.

Tennessee Williams has achieved some (though highly over-rated and rather unjustified) reputation as a dramatist depicting psychological depths; his main success rests on A Streetcar Named Desire, containing only a series of scenes exploiting primitive sex. In his first novel, one is confronted with a sad miscarriage, reminding one of a book by an adolescent who has just read Psychopathia Sexualis.

In recording the dramatis personae, one finds as exhibit A, Mrs. Stone, who has just experienced "three separations"—"abandonment of her profession" (as an actress, a woman of 50, she played Juliet and flopped) "and her husband's death" (the impotent man died and left her his millions) "and that interval of a woman's life when the ovarian cycle is cut off." The ex-actress and ex-beauty is supplied with young Roman pimps by an old female pimp, a contessa. To make the story more alluring, and not to omit a few further sexy details: The actress and her aggressive female ex-friend, one Miss Bishop, had in previous years had a Lesbian affair; and the playboy, Paolo, and his barber, Renato, are homosexually attached to each other. To top it all, there is also a perverted exhibitionistically-inclined urologist in this company, who, though only on the fringes of the circle, becomes the leading symbol in Mrs. Stone's "drifting." This character is a homosexual, too, though he refuses the advances of another homosexual tourist, because "for when a man has an appointment with grandeur [!], he dares not stoop to comfort." This assembly of homosexuals, perverts and bisexuals is a basic part of the narrative; it seems only included to confirm Kinsey's opinion that every third man one meets on the street has had some homosexual experiences.

This peculiar framework reminds this reviewer of the statement in Bergler's The Writer and Psychoanalysis, that "writers concern themselves in their work exclusively with abnormal human reactions; normality is not a subject dealt with in poetry of any kind." Mr. Williams seems to overdo this privilege, including perversions as the main theme of the narrative.

At bottom, his book purports to be both a soul-searching exposition of an aging beauty, and a picture of her deterioration after the menopause. She is described as frigid, cruel, calculating; the saving grace of pity for her human suffering does not enter the picture, which automatically makes the book—as a work of art—worthless. The author also misunderstands his heroine's psychic masochism; he takes her pseudo-aggressions at face value. Mr. Williams piles only hatred and abomination on his heroine; e. g., she visits, with the pimp, the identical tailorshop which provided the last suit for her dying husband. And the "soul-searching" itself starts with Mrs. Stone's psychic development—from the age of 10!
One cannot escape the impression that the author enjoys this grotesque and out-of-focus picture, even cherishes time, which destroys Mrs. Stone’s beauty, enjoys constant comparisons of women with “birds of plunder,” “rapacious bird,” etc. No less than 13 times are these and similar expressions used. Without being concerned with the question of what this fearful hatred covers, it is sufficient to state that the book is a failure from the first urolagnistic scene to the last. “Talent,” muses one of the book’s characters, “what’s talent but the ability to get away with something?” One wonders whether the medium of the novel is not too unfavorable for Mr. Williams—he gets away less easily than in the dim light of the theater.

**The Stereotype of the Single Woman in American Novels.** By DOROTHY YOST DEEGAN. 242 pages. Cloth. King’s Crown Press. New York. 1951. Price $3.75.

The author, deeply impressed with her undertaking, states repeatedly that a pioneer work is intended: “This study is a pioneer venture. It uses American novels for their sociopsychological content rather than for their literary values, the underlying assumption being that literature is a sensitive medium which both creates and reflects attitudes of society [Foreword IX].” What the study practically amounts to, is an investigation of 125 novels (taken from the so-called Dickinson list), resulting in the conclusion: “The social attitude toward the woman who remains single, as expressed by the novelist in America, is far more derogatory than otherwise. She is at best, as the novelist sees her, an unfortunate member of society [p. 185].” Moreover: “The investigator believes that novels and novelists have, unwittingly, by repetition of certain fiction formulas, reinforced this attitude in the social mind. The findings show a marked discrepancy between the actual contribution which single women have made to American society and the composite portrait of them in American fiction [p. 9].”

The methodological approach of the author, whose psychiatric knowledge is thin, is erroneous: the premise that writers represent reality as it is. The author thinks a writer is “something of a clairvoyant of society [p. 188]” The author is uninformed of the newer psychiatric investigations centering around the extreme subjectivity of the writer’s vision: Unconsciously, the writer writes to solve an inner conflict in himself. Thus, writers all too frequently falsify reality to suit their inner needs. The real problem (Why do writers so frequently misrepresent the psychology of single women?) is not even posed. Nor are the unconscious reasons for remaining single really investigated. The book is, because of its false premise, without value for the psychiatrist and the psychologically-interested reader.
Our Rejected Children. By ALBERT DEUTSCH. 292 pages. Cloth. Little, Brown. Boston. 1950. Price $3.00.

This is another book by Albert Deutsch with bearing on the field of mental health. Although it presents in a dramatic fashion events that highlight mismanagement of the delinquent, it is a book to interest anyone concerned with the problems of the youth of the nation, reporting thought-provoking material about juvenile delinquency.

After a nation-wide tour of institutions for delinquent children, in which he purposely visited only those in the more wealthy and cultured states, Mr. Deutsch has presented his findings. He pictures the conditions in a variety of institutions and fully describes bad ones. He seems equally ready to hand out compliments and to point out the obstacles that stand in the way of improvement in places where institution officials are making an effort to bring about better conditions. In summarizing his survey, he lays stress on the lack of mental health practices, limited professional staffs of all categories, and inadequacy of the educational methods. He lists a number of recommendations for improvement that are well worth the reader's attention.

In the second part of the book, Delinquency—Who's to Blame? he goes into some of the theories regarding causes of delinquency and crime and lists the factors that appear with frequency in the case records of juvenile delinquents, pointing out that this information refers to "caught" children rather than to all children who commit crimes. A chapter is devoted to children who kill, and, in a case-history approach, it is shown that danger signals of potential murder are ignored or that a child's emotional problems do not receive the needed attention.

Deutsch discusses the parent and the comic book as scapegoats and points out the defects in the juvenile courts, jails and detention homes, and in community handling of problems. He also presents, and shows the results of, positive efforts on the part of neighborhood, community and state to cope with the problems of youth.

He goes further than description of situations as he finds them, and develops the idea that the child is rejected by the community before he gets into trouble, in that the community has failed to provide for his needs or has been apathetic to the conditions from which the delinquent comes. The final chapter is devoted to the thesis that ours is a crime-ridden culture and a crime-centered culture, with glamorization of the criminal and condonement of the law-breaking activities of the average citizen, graft and crime syndicates. This, he feels, may "confuse the child, distort behavior patterns." He sees the need for thinking of the social health of the culture and of changing some of the culture patterns.
How to Help Your Child Develop Successfully. By B. Von Haller Gilmer. viii and 368 pages. Cloth. Prentice-Hall. New York. 1951. Price $3.95.

This work is a lucid handbook, for new parents particularly. It is not the kind of book to read from cover to cover at one sitting; it covers too wide an area. It was written to answer everyday problems which arise when dealing with children, and should be used as a reference, in understanding and solving these problems. The first section consists of a series of questions and answers. The questions cover a great many problems that are met in bringing up children, and the answers are given clearly and in non-technical language, although some questions are not answered thoroughly enough.

The second part of the volume traces the development of the child from birth until the age of 10. It gives the parent an idea of the child’s behavior at each age. It tells what the child’s interests most likely will be at any particular age, and his physical and mental development as well as an outline of co-ordination and habits. Dr. Gilmer points out that this section of the text is very much generalized and that the parent should recognize that children, as well as adults, differ in their abilities.

In the third and final part of the book parents may keep a record of the advancement, health and activities of the developing child. Dr. Gilmer has made this process easier by providing several check lists where the parents simply note the characteristics of the child at each age.

As a whole, this book certainly covers, practically and interestingly, most activities of the child, and answers typical questions which parents are usually most anxious to know.

Number Nine or The Mind Sweepers. By A. P. Herbert. 286 pages. Cloth. Doubleday. New York. 1952. Price $3.50.

A. P. Herbert, who, as the author of Holy Deadlock, is credited with having almost single-handedly reformed the British divorce laws, has written his first formal book since that publication. He intended, he alleges, to write a funny story about the British civil service but it has been hailed widely as a satire. This time his target, if there is one, is the psychological rigmarole used, or supposed to be used, in selections for appointments. His villains are the psychologists who are called "trick cyclists"—which the British appear to think is funny. Any American who has ever taken a psychological test will agree, we think, however, that the work as a whole is funny. It is slapstick and uproarious. The particular villain is a psychologist who used to be a wartime (World War III), or half-trained, psychiatrist. This farce is heartily recommended to all of us who are inclined to take the role of psychologist, in keeping square pegs out of round holes, too seriously.
The Witch Diggers. By Jessamyn West. 441 pages. Cloth. Harcourt, Brace. New York. 1951. Price $3.50.

The advertising asserts, "With The Witch Diggers Jessamyn West takes her place as one of America's major novelists." Critics of some mental weight confirmed the publisher's dictum; the book reached the best-seller list. Everybody seems in agreement; hence a microscopic view of this abundant macroscopy is in order. The author describes with skill, gusto, and (sometimes) real humor, the vicissitudes of the superintendent (and his family) of a poor farm, Rock County, Ind., around 1900, "the lonesomest corner of the most God-forsaken country." This not-too-inviting vehicle serves the author well in scrutinizing a few people, afflicted with sick sex or sick conscience. Cathy, the older daughter, believes that sex is sin, and makes an appropriate mess of her life; Em, the younger sister, a precocious adolescent with exhibitionistic-voyeuristic tendencies, tastes her misunderstandings of the facts of life; the father-superintendent nurses his guilty conscience, gives up his law practice to help the poor. There are also an unmotherly mother, and a few nondescript weaklings of men. Tangentially, a few inmates of the poor-house are included in the narrative.

An author who approaches sick or sickly-inhibited sex, must be capable of playing the whole scale of pregenital fantasies in his dramatis personae. Miss West, however, singles out the voyeuristic-exhibitionistic component. There are dozens of scopophilia scenes or thought-scenes in the book; one sometimes wonders whether sex consists only of peeping and exhibitionism. Not since Hebbel's Gyges, and Schnitzler's Miss Else, has this partial drive had such elaborated attention. This obviously being the "admission of the lesser crime," the author is truly superb in her description. The elaboration of an exhibitionistic performance by the adolescent girl for the benefit of an elderly inmate, a professional peeper, is noteworthy. Otherwise, sick sex comprises only the castration scene of an elderly uncle who seduced and impregnated a young girl, the wandering hands of a clumsy bridegroom, and an infantile recollection of another weakling, to the effect that men want to milk women (verbatim).

The "sexy" (or pseudo-sexy) part of the book has been unjustifiably magnified by critics. Perhaps, Miss West is partly responsible for this impression: Being bored or indignant with the characterization of her previous book, Friendly Persuasion, as harmless and friendly, she may "dish it out" this time, to prevent repetition of that criticism.

The story becomes more complicated when the real theme of the book is considered: sick conscience. Description of the sickness of chronically disturbed conscience presupposes inner understanding of the real cancer of humanity—psychic masochism. And Miss West's trouble starts at this point. She is magically attracted by, and mortally afraid of, that scourge. Her best portrayed character, the father, is a good-sized masochist and
the self-appointed slave of a torturing conscience; but the author cannot explain him, either consciously or between the lines. Peculiarly enough, she puts her book-knowledge into the mouth of an 11-year-old girl, the implication being that psychic masochism is childish prattle:

"Oh, no. He (the Peeper) didn't even want to see me, he cussed and made that uproar. That's what brought Papa."

"But there you were," Cate said, puzzling it out, "exactly what he wanted and without any trouble."

"The trouble," Em speculated, "was what he enjoyed most, and I was no trouble. Looking at me was like looking at a tree. Except he had to go to jail for looking at me."

"Well, that was trouble, if trouble is what he wanted."

"That was trouble afterwards. What he wanted was trouble before [p. 245]."

The 11-year-old as the only psychologically informed character is matched by another scene in which the funeral of a baby, borne by one of the poor-house inmates, is interrupted by the comic exhibitionistic antics of an elderly man who is given "turpentine as cure for the clap [p. 153]." Hilarious antics at funeral services—a senseless, or blasphemous, scene—become psychologically meaningful: Once more, the author runs away from masochistically-imbued tragedy, this time of the baby and mother.

This is the real impediment of the sometimes brilliant narrative. Although Miss West has created a series of memorable scenes (the father caressing the kitten before returning to his unpleasant wife, an "injustice collecting" scene between the parents, etc.), the total effect is best characterized by the verdict that "something is missing." This "something" is the "fearfully-avoiding" approach to human suffering, at bottom, psychic masochism. This fear of the essentials accounts also for the inexcusable omission of the multiple inner tragedies of the poor-house inmates. Only fear can explain failure to utilize a unique opportunity, and an opportunity self-created, to boot.

In short: Without inner clarification of the ambivalent attitude toward psychic masochism, Miss West will remain a brilliant promise, endowed with a predilection for oddities and a rather peculiar sense of humor. Great works of art cannot be created without facing squarely the basic human tragedy.

**Mythomania.** By CURTIS WHITTINGTON, Jr. 56 pages. Cloth. Exposition Press. New York. 1951. Price $2.00.

In spite of the title, these verses are not psychiatric except insofar as they reflect modern nihilism and social despair. They are excellent verse in the modern style and, as a reflection of the modern mood, are well worth the attention of social scientists.
**Exploring the Child's World.** (Introduction by Aldous Huxley.) By Helen Parkhurst. xxx and 290 pages. Cloth. Appleton-Century-Crofts. New York. 1951. Price $3.50.

The general theme of Helen Parkhurst's *Exploring the Child's World* is that parents, while often loving, are seldom well-enough informed to be rational about their children; and teachers, while sometimes rational, are frequently unloving! Miss Parkhurst has had vast experience in the training of primary school teachers and in experimental work with children, as well as in radio and television work with children's programs and interviews. Her understanding of the child's point of view is refreshing and clear. She records with naturalness the Socratic, unrehearsed dialogues between groups of randomly-selected children; and the result is effective and dynamic. As a child psychologist, Miss Parkhurst shares the hope of her colleagues that parents and children may someday achieve that high estate where they may truly understand one another, and live and work together to create the kind of world in which they could solve more problems with fewer conflicts.

The author's realm is the child's world: Her material in working with children includes varied topics—playmates, death, God, prayer, conscience, stealing, lying, worry, anger, prejudice. *Exploring the Child's World* is a quietly brilliant document, to be highly recommended as a book many parents and teachers, to say nothing of other relatives too, would find extremely enlightening, even inspiring. In fact, this book should help to mend their ways, as a sensible guide, to make children happier everywhere.

**Human Fertility: The Modern Dilemma.** By Robert C. Cook. 380 pages. Cloth. William Sloane Associates. New York. 1951. Price $4.50.

According to Mr. Cook, the greatest problem of our time is that of human population, its control and its correct channelization. The human population is increasing by 68,000 every 24 hours. At this rate of increase, the world population will be 18.4 billion in the year 2160 instead of our present 2.3 billion. Even if science could find a way to synthesize food, the author doubts whether such a vast population could be sustained. Scientific progress in the medical sciences in the past 100 years has so controlled the great epidemics and lowered the death rates that birth and death rates have been thrown out of equilibrium. Since parents of lower I. Q., he holds, tend to have more children than those of greater intelligence, an additional problem of channelization is created.

Mr. Cook feels that the solutions to these problems lie in the future. An informed public would have to press the government for a constructive population policy. The theories expounded in this book are founded on statistics, and the fiery enthusiasm of the author makes it informative and interesting reading.
Readings in Child Psychology. Wayne Dennis, editor. xi and 624 pages. Paper. Prentice-Hall. New York. 1951. Price $5.00.

Wayne Dennis, an authority on child development, makes available in Readings in Child Psychology many of the outstanding researches and interpretations in the field. While the scientific approach to child behavior is stressed by the author in the compilation of articles, the selections apparently have been made with an eye to readability and to general interest. The reader of this anthology of essays in psychology is given, in each author's own words, a first-hand knowledge of some 60 contributions in child psychology. An important feature is that each selection is introduced by an explanation of its place in child psychology and its relation to the other selections. The inclusions in Readings in Child Psychology are expertly and rather impartially drawn from many different fields in the area, and the range is from birth to adolescence. Dr. Dennis as editor has shown good judgment and discrimination in the preparation of this book. Some of the contributors are: Florence Goodenough, Robert Havighurst, A. T. Jersild, Kurt Lewin, Jean Piaget, and Lewis Terman.

Counseling and Psychology. By Milton L. Blum and Benjamin Balinsky. 586 pages. Cloth. Prentice-Hall. New York. 1951. Price $5.00.

The text of 19 chapters covers, among other matters, the influence of psychology's contribution to the field of vocational counseling. The material can also be read and understood by non-psychologists who are interested in, and perform, counseling duties.

The text of 19 chapters covers, among other matters, the influence of psychology, and the interrelationships between various types of counseling; pseudo-scientific counseling methods; interviewing techniques; the concept and use of tests; the clinical approach and ways and means of interpreting approach; and ways and means of interpreting test results to the client. The whole field covered is very broad; and the value of the book might have been enhanced if the scope had been narrower and more attention given to fewer topics.

Sing at My Wake. By Jo Sinclair. 391 pages. Cloth. McGraw-Hill. New York. 1951. Price $3.50.

This is a well-written, psychologically inadequate second novel by the author of Wasteland. A frigid woman is depicted, without any indication (even between the lines) of where the trouble comes from. As the only psychological reason, her mother's anti-hedonistic remarks are adduced. No less inadequate is the psychological rejection of the son by the heroine. The story ends with self-reproaches, and even these are assigned to rather superficial reasons. Miss Sinclair simply knows too little of unconscious motivations—even intuitively. She is, however, a good craftsman.
Here's to Sobriety. By THOMAS FULLAM. 208 pages. Cloth. Abelard Press. New York. 1951. Price $2.50.

This book is one which should be read by everyone, in that it covers the topic of alcoholism with candor, common sense and sincerity. It tells the story from all angles because it is written under a pseudonym by one who has "been on both sides of that intangible line which separates the controlled drinker from the alcoholic." The author speaks, not from general theory, but from first hand experience with alcohol. He clearly brings out the viewpoint of the various types of drinkers and "tells the story without pulling any punches."

This book should be read by anyone who has ever had any contact with the problem of alcoholism. Almost all of the questions which arise in one's mind concerning alcoholism are discussed out of long experience gained by the author as a problem drinker and one who has worked with hundreds of alcoholics.

I, My Ancestor. By NANCY WILSON ROSS. 393 pages. Cloth. Random House. New York. 1950. Price $3.50.

This is a rather confused and confusing story of a recluse and his son, with the threads thinly interwoven. The son, story editor of a movie company, gets himself into foolishly self-concocted conflicts, and is for a short time in psychiatric treatment with a mysteriously circumlocutory psychiatrist—conveniently drowned before treatment is finished. No successor is found, or found necessary, as though there were an absolute scarcity of trained psychiatrists; the continuation of "treatment" being left to solitude on father's little island in the Pacific. The end is, thus, that everything is left suspended. If the book has any "message" at all, it would appear to be the superiority of solitude as compared with the big city. Psychologically, a few interesting starts end exactly nowhere. What the author wanted to say, remains enigmatic.

The Battle for Mental Health. By JAMES CLARK MOLONEY, M. D. 105 pages. Cloth. Philosophical Library. New York. 1952. Price $3.50.

This small volume is—as is to be expected from James Clark Moloney—a very lucid explanation of the mental health situation in this country as he sees it, and of his recommendations for its improvement. Dr. Moloney, a psychoanalyst and a founder of the Cornelian Corner, naturally stresses the early relation of the baby to the mother as fundamental to the child's and adult's later development.

This book can be recommended to the thoughtful attention of the obstetrician, the pediatrician and persons concerned with childhood emotional disorders. It is also well adapted for general reading, with mental hygiene goals in mind.
Mental Hygiene and Life. By Louis Kaplan and Denis Baron. 105 pages. Cloth. Harper. New York. 1952. Price $3.50.

This book is capable of wide applications and, for this reason, will probably be purchased by many persons. For the psychiatrist, the psychologist, the social worker and others, it will review and clarify the principles and fundamentals of mental hygiene. For the teacher, it will become a background for lectures and will afford a better understanding of the behavior of his students. For the college students, for whom the authors principally wrote the book, it will be a supplementary textbook. Because of its important basic teaching qualities this book is one of Harper’s “Education for Living” series.

The first two chapters describe the problems of mental illness and the objects of mental hygiene. The following chapters describe the development of personality, the psychodynamics of behavior, emotional expressions, frustration and stresses of life, as well as mechanisms of emotional adjustments. The final chapter offers suggestions for the management of one’s life.

Numerous references follow each chapter, and indices of author and subject complete the book.

Finally, your reviewer wishes to call attention to the clever cartoons portraying mental hygiene problems.

Maternal Care and Mental Health. By John Bowlby, M. D. 173 pages. Paper. World Health Organization. Geneva. 1951. Price $2.00.

This monograph is the second in a series planned by the World Health Organization of the United Nations. The study commenced in January 1950, and was done in five nations besides the United States. It is a report on the extensive literature on “Children Who Were Homeless in Their Native Country.”

There are two main sections to this brochure. The first is entitled, “Adverse Effects of Maternal Deprivation.” The second is headed, “Prevention of Maternal Deprivation.” There are four appendices, all of which are mostly comparative studies of children under different environmental conditions. These are treated statistically. There are a great many useful tables and compilations of data.

The main tenet is expressed in the first chapter, when the author states: “. . . what is believed to be essential for mental health is that the infant and young child should experience a warm, intimate, and continuous relationship with his mother (or permanent mother-substitute) in which both find satisfaction and enjoyment.”
From a Doctor's Heart. By Eugene F. Snyder, M. D. 251 pages.
Cloth. Philosophical Library. New York. 1951. Price $3.75.

This book is written in the form of a series of discussions between the author, his wife (also a physician) and their 'teen-age son. They deal with heart disease, the discussions being prompted by the author's own attack of coronary thrombosis, and are presented in a manner designed to be understood by the lay reader. The author's thoughts and feelings during his attack and convalescence, as well as his reflections on broader aspects of illness in this modern world, are expressed. Psychosomatic diseases are superficially discussed. The author's background as a refugee from Russia, later having to flee from Czechoslovakia to the United States, causes him to flavor his writing with ideas about world peace, philosophy, religion and racial intolerance.

The purpose of this book is to "make us aware of the great possibilities each one of us possesses to prolong his life." The reviewer believes it to be a commendable effort toward the education of the public with regard to cardiac disease.

A Guide to Medicine. By Ivo Geikie-Cobb, M. D. With special articles by various contributors. 416 pages including appendix and four tables and index. Cloth. Duell, Sloan and Pearce. New York. 1951. Price $5.00.

A Guide to Medicine is an incomplete dictionary and an incomplete encyclopedia, apparently compiled for such laymen as popular science writers or crossword puzzle faddists. Such an arbitrary-"information"-book (it cannot be called informative, nor can it serve as a reference work) must necessarily meet many objections, even if it were excellent. But its content, definitions and explanations, are—to say the least—very unequal; they are even contestable as far as the field of psychiatric terminology is concerned. In other fields, they differ extremely in quality and may be misleading. Highlights of the book are the "special articles" which deal with comprehensive abstracts on systems, some of them excellent in their precise shortness. These are contributed by such distinguished authors as Sir Alexander Fleming, G. W. B. James, Sir Philip Manson-Bahr and others.

A Doctor's Pilgrimage: An Autobiography. By Edmund A. Brassett, M. D. 265 pages. Cloth. Lippincott. Philadelphia. 1951. Price $3.50.

This simple, straightforward tale of a doctor's life does much to remove the nimbus from the medical profession and in so doing establish the doctor firmly as, first of all, a human being. In general, it gives an account of a young doctor's attempt to build a practice and a home. It makes an interesting and colorful story which your reviewer considers good light reading.