To-Morrow We’ll be Sober. By Lincoln Williams. Cassel. 15s.

It was not until a Sub-Committee on Alcoholism was set up by the World Health Organisation in 1951, that the size of the problem throughout the world became apparent, even to the experts themselves. Hitherto the alcoholic had been hardly worthy of serious scientific study, being regarded by the medical profession as well as by lay people as the subject of moral weakness rather than as a victim of a disease and as such, deserving of being treated as a sick person by his relatives, friends and doctor.

The effects of alcoholism are far-reaching and affect not only the patient himself but also his wife, children and other members of the family, and indeed anyone who comes into contact with him whether in the home, at work or during his leisure hours. In many countries it is a major public health problem.

Dr. Lincoln William’s book is lucidly written and gives a clear picture of the problem of the alcoholic and alcoholism, including an outline of modern methods of treatment. The sections dealing with the evolution of the alcoholic and the distinction between the alcoholic and the heavy drinker are particularly well done.

This is a book which can be recommended with confidence to the potential patient as it should help him to gain insight into his condition, to the patient’s relatives who will learn that he is someone to be treated and not despised, and finally to his family doctor.

T. P. Rees

Mental Subnormality. By W. Alan Heaton-Ward. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 6s. 64 pp.

This book by the Medical Superintendent of the Stoke Park Hospital Group, Bristol, replaces “Notes on Mental Deficiency” which he wrote in collaboration with the late Dr. Lyons and for which there was always a steady demand. Its successor, brought completely up to date and incorporating the changes made by the Mental Health Act will be eagerly welcomed by bewildered students and social workers.

There are sections on the diagnosis, causes and nature of mental subnormality with brief notes on clinical types, on Hospital and Community Care and on Intelligence Tests, and the last 14 pages are devoted to “Legal Aspects” including the chief provisions of the Mental Health Act in so far as the mentally subnormal are concerned.

The Dement in the Community. By M. H. Bree, P.S.W. Obtainable from The Group Secretary, Horton Hospital, Epsom, Surrey. 2s. 6d.

This is a unique report of a continuous period of after care given to cases of general paralysis of the insane treated at the Mott Clinic. It makes a notable contribution to social case-work