Because of his painstaking observations the conclusions drawn by Dr. Dumas are of exceptional value and he arranges his facts very convincingly to support his theory that nervous intoxication, which results from initial emotions and perturbances, gives rise to confusional troubles, preparing the way for the pithiatic disturbances that succeed and survive it.

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L'Expertise Mentale Militaire. A. POROT and A. HESNARD. Paris: Mason, 1919.

Deploring the lack of consistent uniformity and definiteness in the interpretation of mental examination tests, these authors have given us an extensive resume of their work during four years of the war, in both military and civil environments. The material was gathered chiefly among the French troops and detention camps of North Africa where may be found not only the elemental and abnormal indigenes of that country, but a host of misfits, outcasts and delinquents of Occidental lands, with the offscourings of the Orient who sought to enter service there or were detained by the law. These formed a rich penal clinic with a wealth of diverse mental phenomena. The treatise commends itself to all on account of the practical conception and application of methods used in determining the origin and solution of mental problems somewhat complicated or difficult of analysis. A loose classification divides the material into four sections. The first describes the methods used to determine an applicant's aptitude for service, and studies the military worth of defectives, psychoasthenics, etc., laying especial stress on the significance of hereditary influence and anomalies of character and intelligence. Under "Mental Disorders directly imputed to War" the authors deal with the factors of predisposition and circumstances in relation to retirement and rate of compensation. In chapter 3 they discuss the responsibility or culpability of delinquents; this should be of much value to judges of courts-martial. It is the following chapter, however, on Mental Simulation that is of especial interest to psychiatrists, as heretofore too little attention has been paid to the psychotic elements involved in what appeared to be flagrant cases of malingering, in which the symptoms assumed were usually credited with conscious and malicious simulation in order to gain selfish or particular ends. The

authors found few of the simulators normal, the majority showed either a defective state or a real psychological disturbance which rendered them irresponsible for their acts, and what appeared to be symptoms assumed for utilitarian motives proved to be, in the majority of cases, phenomena that were either the incipients or residuals of fleeting psychopathic states, exaggerated perhaps by the coefficients of suggestibility or education (tricks taught them by others). In a detailed account of how mental simulation is manifested and recognized, and the method of conducting an examination, the psychiatrist is warned of the necessity of inquiring very carefully into the relation of the possible utilitarian motive exhibited and the circumstances of environment, in order to determine the mental state of an individual who would make such an inadequate and inefficient attempt at escape from social obligations. It is held that the medical rôle of a physician-psychiatrist has not ended with the detection and interpretation of simulated symptoms, that he must further consider the matter of reconstruction and of social adjustment. The authors omit all nosological and pedantic discussion, but the wealth of material makes the book of great documentary value and the whole problem of mental examinations is set forth in such clear and concise manner as to place within the grasp of all a subject with which physicians in general are too little familiar and have considered as yet too specialized.

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Neuroses et Psychoses de Guerre chez les Austro-Allemands. G. DUMAS & H. AIMÉ. Paris: Alcan, 1918. Pp. 242.

In this production Drs. Dumas and Aime have attempted the rather difficult task of reviewing an extensive summary by Dr. A. Birnbaum of Berlin, covering all phases of normal and pathological psychology as reported by over three hundred Austro-German physicians and psychiatrists. The German authors wrote with especial reference to mental disorders directly provoked by war or those brought about by its novel conditions and unusual situations. They observed a diminution of cases during the exhilaration of mobilization, not only among troops on the march, but also in prisons and sanitariums due, they believed, to the spirit of the times and the distraction of physical needs. They discuss at length the origin and syndromes of neurasthenia and neuro-psychic exhaustion states, and the relation of shell shock to the