and made it the cradle of a new birth. The heroine is left alone by the death of her lover and alone hunts out the English cottage where they might have lived, fits it up with all the subtle charm of home and retires there to live with the phantasy, almost of his actual presence. But her mind is healthily of this world. For a free libido such as hers reality at once comes knocking at the door. Rather it comes first flashing from the heels of the spirited little pony which presents a challenge of defiance to any preconceived dreams of indolent or uninterrupted nursing of grief and luxury of quiet dreaming. Thus life proceeds. There is never forgetfulness of the love that forms the background and the incentive but there is also no idle pain. From the tiny black kitten which first creeps over the doorstep, through the refugees who wear its sill one after another, to the forsaken baby who at last comes to fill life, the stimulus of reality is inexorable in keeping the heroine to her place in the world. Even the baby who comes to fill her heart is brought her because her urging drives on the man Peter to his duty in France.

The delicacy with which this whole story is suggested, not baldly told, can best express, in its own language, its message to all who seek to find the true sublimation pathway or to help struggling ones to find it. "I started out," the heroine says, in one of her diary letters to her dead lover, "to tell my story, to you and to myself, for comfort in the long silences, and lo! I have no story; I do not seem to be merely I, I have gone out of myself and cannot find my way back." The goal, this is, of the untiring work of psychoanalysis with every patient who suffers and struggles, to go out of self with libido so free that there is no finding of the way back.

L. BRINK.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN ALIENIST. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL. By Allan McLane Hamilton, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. (Edin.). George H. Doran Company, New York.

Rare are the lives of such diversity of interest and experience which are able to portray themselves in the manner of this book. The personal element gives a familiar human setting to a long line of events and experiences of public significance. Description and history from a largely unwritten past include men and events which belong to this city, the country, London, or to remote unfrequented places abroad. It is a pleasant and instructive chronicle of the comings and goings of men of interest and achievement in the author's long life and of his share in the development of events.

His chapters upon the early days of his professional life revive the memory of past medical leaders and recall what they gave to medical training, while at the same time they point the contrast between some of the older ways of obtaining a medical education and the more efficient methods which modern science has evolved. The presentation of the author's own difficulties in his early professional career marks the beginning of that zeal for social reform through medicine to which he has devoted his energies in a variety of ways.

Conspicuous among these are his arraignment of the inadequacy of present day medico-legal procedure, the barbarism of capital punishment and the form in which it is executed and the tardiness of this country to adopt more reasonable and humane treatment of the mentally diseased.

In the wide reference to his experience, however, there is felt a lack of that interpretative attitude toward psychiatric problems which the public is coming to demand. Various passages seem still to exclude the appreciation of the energetic conception of mental disease, wherein must lie effective

understanding of these problems and the true stimulus which compels reform. Nevertheless, Dr. Hamilton's practical suggestions, which he has not only promulgated but already to a certain extent pressed into activity lead along the way of progress and have destroyed some of the barriers of prejudice which stand in the path. The book is a genial and practical memorial of a long and useful life.

JELLIFFE.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON DISORDERS OF THE SEXUAL FUNCTION IN THE MALE AND FEMALE. By MAX HÜHNER, M.D. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia; Stanley Phillips, London.

In the broadening conception of all disorders to which medicine is tending, this book reveals decided limitations. We are growing accustomed to thinking of individual expression and attempt at adaptation upon several layers of activity. Therefore to insist, predominantly, in the interests of genito-urinary treatment, upon the reaction at reflex levels and without due regard to the effect upon psychic conditions of such treatment, as well as without appreciation of psychic causes for these disorders, gives the discussions but a circumscribed and moreover a questionable value.

Hühner acknowledges the work of the neurologist as complementary to that of his specialty. His use of the term neurologist, however, seems to embrace not much more than the conception of one who uses a few nerve tonics and sedatives. Psychic and electrical treatment are synonymous terms. For one who classes together "such conditions as psychoanalysis or the various forms of sexual degeneracies or perversions" one cannot expect a very clear idea or complete evaluation of psychical causes in sexual disorders and psychical investigation and treatment to remedy them.

Therefore it is not strange also to find the sexual neurosis conceived mostly as a physical condition and emphasis laid insistently upon the value of physical manipulation as curative. It is certainly time to awaken to the influence of the psychical control of physical reactions resulting in health or disease and the tremendous importance of the symbolic value which reactions acquire and exercise in the sexual functions most of all, when such stress is laid upon pleasure producing manipulations. How will reëducation of the pathological child or reëducation of the disordered adult proceed if the physician resorts to manual treatment and manipulation in the case of the one or the other? Moreover, the so-called "psychic" effect of the insertion of the lighted endoscope carries a note of the far-away reassuring effects of the magician and his cures, effects which man's unconscious wish still seeks in its pathological return to primitive estates, but surely none which the modern physician would foster.

The good descriptive work of the book in regard to the physiology of the sexual mechanism as well as its pathological response to abuse is instructive. The author aims also at a high ideal of the use of sexuality but with such a restricted outlook he offers no efficient help in the attaining of the well-regulated life of the complete man. Had he ever contemplated actual psychical values he might have informed his reader why the repeatedly condemned egg and oyster must be avoided in these disorders.

JELLIFFE.

MR. BRITLING SEES IT THROUGH. H. G. Wells. The MacMillan Co., New York. INSTINCT OF THE HERD IN PEACE AND WAR. W. Trotter. The Macmillan Co.

Both of these authors have written of the war. The work of each has won deserved renown. Yet it is with a very different feeling that the reader