

DIE ERKENNUNG DER SCHWACHSINNS BEIM KINDER. Dr. Med. Emil Völz. Wilhelm Engelmann, Leipsic.

The book contains a discussion of feeble-mindedness in children and the author reproduces in detail the various intellectual tests (Binet, Simon's, Ziehen and others) which are employed in the examination of defective children. He gives considerable attention to the organic side of feeble-mindedness; in general, however, the book contains no new ideas.

KARPAS.

THE MIND OF PRIMITIVE MAN. By Franz Boas. The Macmillan Company, New York.

This series of essays, which have been remodeled, affords an insight into some problems of much value to the student of medicine at all alive to social forces.

Speaking of racial prejudices, the author says that "several races have developed a civilization of a type similar to the one from which our own had its origin. A number of favorable conditions facilitated the rapid spread of this civilization in Europe. Among these, common physical appearance, contiguity of habitat, and moderate differences in modes of manufacture, were the most potent. When, later on, civilization began to spread over other continents, the races with which modern civilization came into contact were not equally favorably situated. Striking differences of racial types, the preceding isolation which caused devastating epidemics in the newly discovered countries, and the greater advance of civilization, made assimilation much more difficult. The rapid dissemination of Europeans over the whole world destroyed all promising beginnings which had arisen in various regions. Thus no race except that of eastern Asia was given a chance to develop an independent civilization. The spread of the European race cut short the growth of the existing independent germs without regard to the mental aptitude of the people among whom it was developing. On the other hand, we have seen that no great weight can be attributed to the earlier rise of civilization in the Old World, which is satisfactorily explained as a chance. In short, historical events appear to have been much more potent in leading races to civilization than their faculty, and it follows that achievements of races do not warrant us in assuming that one race is more highly gifted than the other." He further says: "Differences between the white race and other races must not be interpreted to mean superiority of the former, inferiority of the latter, unless this relation can be proved by anatomical or physiological considerations."

Boas believes that environment has great influence upon the development of races, and that anatomical data are not secure in postulating superiority or inferiority. He is apparently not acquainted, however, with the data of Campbell, Brodmann, Bolton, Kaes, Vogt and others relative to the histological structures of the human cortex, and in his chapter on mental traits rests with the studies of Tylor and Spencer.

In general the gap between primitive and civilized races is very slight after all in the author's general conception. Thus, p. 123, he says: "We are not inclined to consider the mental organization of different races of man as differing in fundamental points. Although, therefore, the distribution of faculty among the races of man is far from being known, we can say this much: the average faculty of the white race is found to be the same

degree in a large proportion of individuals of all the other races, and, although it is probable that some of these races may not produce as large a proportion of great men as our own race, there is no reason to suppose that they are unable to reach the level of civilization represented by the bulk of our own people."

With the author's general conclusion every one can agree: "That the data of anthropology teach us a greater tolerance of forms of civilization different from our own, and that we should learn to look upon foreign races with greater sympathy, and with the conviction, that, as all races have contributed in the past to cultural progress in one way or another, so they will be capable of advancing the interests of mankind, if we are only willing to give them a fair opportunity."

JELLIFFE.

DIAGNOSTIC UND PROGNOSTIC DER GEISTESKRANKHEITEN. Ein kurzes Lehrbuch von Dr. Manfred Fürhmann. Zweite, vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. Verl. V. Johann Ambrosius Barth, Leipzig.

Fürhmann's new edition of the "Diagnosis and Prognosis of Mental Diseases" differs very little from the last one. This volume is divided into two parts—general and special; the former deals with general psychiatric matters, such as history-taking, observation and examination of patients, symptomology, etc., the latter includes special mental diseases which are presented in a dogmatic and objective manner. The Kraepelin classification is adopted.

In general this book is useful, especially the first part, to the beginner. It is lamentable that the author did not include in his book the various intellectual tests, Jung's association test and something about Freud's psychopathology. It is also important to note that lumbar punctures and the Wassermann test have been very superficially treated—he could only spare less than one half page to such an important subject.

KARPAS.

MIND AND HEALTH. With an Examination of some Forms of Divine Healing. By Edward E. Weaver, Ph.D., Fellow in Clark University. The Macmillan Co., New York.

An introductory statement, made by Dr. Stanley Hall concerning this somewhat diffuse work, serves to indicate the general scope.

Dr. Hall says: "The author of this book has devoted years of patient study to the various phenomena in these fields and has endeavored to give a rational and coherent explanation of them according to the principles of modern science. He has sought to maintain a sympathetic attitude towards all those who believe in the power of the mind over the body, and he seeks to show that those who discredit this, as certain medical writers are still prone to do, omit a fact of human nature of profound theoretical and practical significance. This critique, on the other hand, is no less searching and impartial as to those who maintain the sufficiency of purely psychic agencies to effect cures or to explain a large class of phenomena that illustrate relations between the mind and the body. It is thus the comprehensiveness of his studies and the attempted judiciousness of his point of view that in my opinion give this volume its own place and value and that will serve, I hope, to diffuse a