

energy discharge or they may return in a projected feeling toward other members of the group, as in the forms of condemnation and destructiveness which fail to better conditions. Progress is won rather by a constructive attitude which recognizes side by side the two forms in which living tendencies manifest themselves, for individual interest or for that of the larger and increasingly larger group. This principle the author applies to the questions not only of the existence of the war, its ambivalent effect upon civilization and the attitude to be assumed toward our one time enemies. He applies it also to the conditions of unrest and change manifest everywhere since the war and definitely also to the question whether the time is not ripe for a larger group combination and activity to be worked out in a league of nations.

The book lacks some of the keener originality and maturer perfection of thought which usually characterize the writer's works, but this is compensated by the timeliness and aptness of these "Thoughts" thrown off as they have been in the face of practical situations. To these he gives that broader basis and that interpretative setting which gives so true a philosophical as well as practical value.

Lessing, Oscar. DIE HYSTERIE ODER SOGENANNT E PSYCHOGENE NEUROSE.

Eine psychopathologische Studie auf dem Grenzgebiete des Nerven- und Seelenlebens. Published by S. Karger, Berlin, 1920.

This little book is of the sort to stand in the gap between a strictly medical treatise appealing only to the trained physician and the laity, to whom after all the subject of disease pertains most closely. It is only a brief discussion of hysteria in actual length but it presents so complete a summary and in such an appreciative and sympathetic manner that it possesses real value for any reader.

The writer views hysteria as a group of symptomatic manifestations arising out of a certain psychic background and depending for their form and appearance as symptoms upon certain describable mental mechanisms. In reviewing these he acknowledges his debt to Freud and utilizes freely the concept of the existence and activity of a large part of the mental life in the unconscious. Only thus are explained the factors of repression, conflict and the return of repressed material to form the hysterical symptoms. He describes these various symptoms and discusses their formation, as arising out of the utilization of the somatic pathways according to false conceptions of the body and its functions which may exist in the unconscious, the following out of personal wishes hidden there, the protest against the circumstances of the environment. He states that there is no impairment of the intellect in the hysteric, only a restricted use of its critical sense to serve the personal ends. There is a brief review of the history of hysteria and also a reference to the added importance of hysteria as a subject of interest among the mental disturbances in military and civil population arising because of

the war. He refers also to its very practical bearing upon such questions as accident insurance and the like and the working here through the unconscious of the typical hysterical reactions.

The interest in the book does not lie in its presentation of new material. Such is hardly the scope of so small a work. But it presents these very important truths concerning this prevalent order of disturbance in a very well digested and enlightening manner. Its illustrations of the working of the unconscious life are particularly happy ones and its acceptance of the unconscious activity which produces hysteria as well as of the analytical method of reaching these is peculiarly simple, straightforward and convincing. The writer still separates other operative causes from the sexual, simply because he does not extend the term sexual to include all impulse as Freud does. It is not evidently because he has any difficulty in accepting a sexual etiology or the operation of such even in childhood.

He states his only regret concerning psychoanalysis, that it is not a method which practically can be applied to a sufficient number of cases of such a universal disorder. Still his own broad and receptively sympathetic comprehension of the whole hysterical problem testifies to the value of such an analytic attitude. He looks hopefully forward to a time when more of the unconscious will be available for well directed rather than hysterical activity and to a more natural mode of existence which may make hysteria a thing unknown in some future generation. He would approach the problems of hysteria with an "unprejudiced, penetrating, scientific research" into the "shy, closed-in soul of the hysteric." Such an attitude may well be spread abroad throughout the medical profession and the public at large, in order to bring such a future condition to pass.

van Schelven, Th. TRAUMA UND NERVENSYSTEM. MIT GLEICHMÄSSIGER BERÜCKSICHTIGUNG DER KRIEGSERFAHRUNGEN DER ENTENTELÄNDER UND DER MITTELMÄCHTE. S. Karger, Berlin, 1920.

Dr. van Schelven, a nerve specialist of Hague, was neurologist to the Netherlands Sanitary Commission and as a neutral had exceptional opportunities for practical work and observation in many of the countries at war. Furthermore he evidently had access to the literature of both contestants as an exceptionally rich series of citations testifies.

Notwithstanding the numberless new examples of human vivisections due to the war and the new points of view started, there was lacking that many-sided application to a unified understanding that in pre-war times was so valuable in working out the fundamental problems of the effects of trauma upon the nervous system. The author has however been the first to bring to pass that work of correlation of the different and differing groups of observers and in the reviewer's opinion has given the best general account of the war injuries to the nervous system thus far pub-