

Lord Leverhulme, with a sense of humour, which is in strong contrast with the author's *ex parte* emphasis, makes the point that his foreword is "an apt illustration of that kind of 'waste' which is the saddest type of all wastes—a wasted opportunity." Here we join issue with his lordship. So far from neglecting it, he seizes the opportunity to state that in his opinion "the greatest wasters are those who concentrate their whole time on mere efforts for immediate and direct money-making." Such a preaching from so great a captain of industry serves to point a moral for which we share Prof. Spooner's gratitude.

MENTAL DISORDERS AND THEIR TREATMENT.

- (1) *The Modern Treatment of Mental and Nervous Disorders*. A Lecture delivered at the University of Manchester, on March 25, 1918, by Dr. B. Hart. Pp. 28. (Manchester: At the University Press; London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1918.) Price 1s. net.
- (2) *The Re-education of the Adult: I. The Neurasthenic in War and Peace*. By Capt. A. J. Brock. (London: Headley Bros.) 6d.

(1) **I**N this lecture Dr. Hart discusses modern conceptions of the nature and treatment of mental and nervous disorders. He points out that, though the "physiological conception"—the belief that mental and nervous disorders are due to deranged bodily processes, and in particular to diseases of the brain—still holds its place, its sway is no longer undisputed, for there has now arisen the "psychological conception," which holds that some at least of these phenomena are due to mental causes, capable of determination by psychological investigation, and of removal by psychological methods of treatment. The conspicuous success of this latter treatment has been amply demonstrated in our military hospitals for "shell shock" and similar disorders. Dr. Hart insists upon the present imperative necessity of provision for civilian patients, both men and women, in those incipient phases of mental and nervous disorder when treatment promises the best results, and urges the desirability of institutions in which physiologist, chemist, and psychologist can attack, together and from every side, the many problems that await solution. In emphasising the necessity for the close association of treatment with organised investigation and with teaching, he points out that these three functions have their natural home in the universities and medical schools, and it is from them that we shall confidently expect the developments that are so urgently needed.

(2) This essay forms part of No. 4 of the second series of "Papers for the Present." Describing the "shell shock" hospital as "a microcosm of the modern world, showing the salient features of our society (and especially its weaknesses) in-

tensified, and on a narrower stage," the author describes some of the re-educative methods which, having proved successful, may be commended to the attention of the educationist and those devoting themselves to the general problems of social reconstruction. Underlying all the symptoms of neurasthenia is found the element of separatism or dissociation—a significant fact for social psychology. Some of the current psychological methods of dealing with neurasthenia are placed by the writer into three groups, which, he says, are steps in a progressive series: (1) Psychoanalysis; (2) therapeutic conversations; (3) "ergotherapy." In methods belonging to the first group the mental condition is analysed, in the second the patient is "encouraged to look sensibly and squarely at things," while in the last he is "prompted to follow up his thoughts by action—by real functioning in relation to his environment."

INORGANIC CHEMISTRY FOR STUDENTS.

- (1) *Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry*. By Prof. A. Smith. Third edition. Pp. xiv+925. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1918.) Price 8s. 6d. net.
- (2) *Experimental Inorganic Chemistry*. By Prof. A. Smith. Sixth edition. Pp. vii+171. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1918.) Price 3s. 6d. net.
- (3) *A Laboratory Outline of College Chemistry*. By Prof. A. Smith. Pp. v+206. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1918.) Price 3s. net.

(1) **A**MONG the text-books of inorganic chemistry of the newer type, in which the attempt is made to present the descriptive material so far as possible in connection with underlying theoretical principles, Prof. Alexander Smith's "Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry" is one the merits of which have gained wide recognition, and that a third edition of this work has become necessary will occasion no surprise.

A comparison of the present with the previous edition shows that some alterations have been made in the arrangement of the subject-matter and that a considerable amount of additional information has been inserted, corresponding with the advances of the past decade where these have come within the scope of an introductory text-book. Thus the account of the radio-active elements has been greatly extended, and there are new sections on colloidal solutions, the atomic numbers, and other subjects of a theoretical character. A number of paragraphs have also been inserted on some of the more recent technical applications of chemistry, such as the manufacture of nitric acid from the atmosphere, synthetical ammonia, the oxyacetylene flame, the application of tungsten, the use of permutite for water-softening, and so forth. By these additions the usefulness of the book is fully maintained, and it continues to give a scientific