

example, we may cite the generalisation on p. 57, in speaking of Eli Whitney: "Standing behind every inventor we find a benefactor who, with friendship or money, has helped him to succeed." A misleading statement is that on p. 44, to the effect that George Stephenson built *Puffing Billy*. Success or failure of an invention turns frequently on small practical difficulties, and it is too much to expect that a single author can be cognisant of all these minutiae.

H. W. D.

### Psychology.

*Common Principles in Psychology and Physiology.* By Dr. John T. MacCurdy. (The Cambridge Psychological Library.) Pp. xvii + 284. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1928.) 15s. net.

THIS book is a striking addition to the 'worth-while' books on the functions of the nervous system. It is, however, a difficult book to read, as the author quite candidly admits in his preface. The dominant theme of patterns is purely an abstraction and is an attempt to bring the material and the immaterial more into harmony with one another than is commonly done. Dr. MacCurdy confesses to being averse to materialistic hypotheses and takes up a position which is whole-heartedly immaterialistic. His theory is that all the processes of the mind, and indeed of the nervous system, are integrated, correlated, and controlled by what he calls 'patterns.'

The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with psychology, the second with the physiology of the nervous system. At the end of each part is a summary of the application of the theory of patterns to these two branches of knowledge. Several of the chapters on psychology into which the author interweaves considerable portions of his very wide knowledge of abnormal psychology are extremely interesting and well-thought-out discussions—apart from any question of patterns. Altogether, an excellent presentation of a difficult subject and a book which requires to be read several times before the author's ideas can be adequately understood.

*The Opposite Sexes: a Study of Woman's Natural and Cultural History.* By Dr. Adolf Heilborn. Translated from the German by J. E. Pryde-Hughes. Pp. viii + 152 + 5 plates. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1927.) 6s. net.

THE author deals with the whole question of woman in three chapters, of which the first covers physical differences and the second the mental differences between the sexes. Current views are ably summarised. While accepting the position of the fundamental and absolute distinction of the two sexes and stating fairly the arguments for assigning woman an inferior or a superior position in the evolutionary scale, the author himself inclines to the former view. This comes out when he considers the development of the social position of woman. A concise historical survey, starting from the functional activities, pictures her social and economic progress as a gradual shackling of man, culminating in the 'feminism up-to-date' which has followed the War,

in which, without stressing the point, he hints there is a message. The book, however, is written without bias as to fact and might serve either side of the argument.

*A Synthetic Psychology: or Evolution as a Psychological Phenomenon.* By Percy Griffith. Pp. xii + 214. (London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 1927.) 7s. 6d. net.

FOR an author to have to ask for faith, tolerance, and patience is in itself a warning of trouble to come. To claim ignorance of psychology as a passport to success in writing about it even as an amateur is giving the show away. To say that every mother can claim to know more about the psychology of children than all the psychologists put together is decidedly unreasonable. The author's hypothesis of 'mind in general,' which he splits up into 'mind-in-nature' and the 'mind of man,' must surely be held to be not proven.

*Intelligence and Mental Growth.* By Claude A. Claremont. (Psyche Miniatures, General Series, No. 13.) Pp. 138. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1927.) 2s. 6d. net.

THE author has presented us with a very readable little book. He perhaps tries to make the subject of intelligence rather simpler than current opinion would justify. Intelligence is defined as the "power to become aware of the necessity of certain causal relationship." Whether the awareness of causation is exactly the same as intelligence is a matter of argument. However, Mr. Claremont is to be congratulated on a very refreshing presentation.

*Psycho-Analysis for All: a Lecture delivered in Vienna.* By Dr. Rudolf Urbantschitsch. Translated by Dr. Arnold Eiloart. Pp. 63. (London: The C. W. Daniel Co., 1928.) 2s. 6d. net.

A SIMPLE and very abbreviated account of psycho-analysis for the man in the street. The author gives a few illustrative cases, but does not go into any detail of theory. It will probably not convince the reader, but will make him want to know more of the rationale of the method.

### Technology.

*Grammar of Textile Design.* By H. Nisbet. Third edition, revised and enlarged. Pp. xi + 553. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1927.) 32s. 6d. net.

THIS treatise is a standard work on woven fabric construction, and deals mainly with the technical part of textile design. The third edition contains a useful chapter on the decorative value of artificial silk, and the chapter on gauze and leno weaving has been augmented by descriptions and diagrams of American types of flat steel doups for heald and Jacquard harnesses.

Woven fabrics may be divided into three broad divisions: (a) fabrics constructed from some simple form of interlacing of the two sets of threads, *i.e.* warp and weft; (b) fabrics that have a foundation texture, but on one or both sides the surface is covered with loops or tufts—these are known