

*Problems of Neurosis: a Book of Case-Histories.*  
By Alfred Adler. With a Prefatory Essay by Dr. F. G. Crookshank. Edited by Philippe Mairet. Pp. xxxvii + 178. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 8s. 6d. net.

THE number of books in English on Alfred Adler's contributions to psychology grows, and the present volume is certainly not the least interesting of them. The principles and practices of 'individual psychology' are exemplified by a number of case histories. The book thus resembles "The Case of Miss R.", which appeared in an English translation some time ago, but it is more comprehensive.

We are strongly inclined to think that anyone desiring a clear introduction to Adler's way of thinking will do better to begin with 'Problems of Neurosis' than with the more formal treatment to be found in other books. They will also realise that, like Freud, he gives a doctor's rather than a teacher's psychology, although no hard-and-fast distinction can be drawn between the two. This view is strengthened by the fact that Dr. Crookshank, a medical man, introduces the reader to Adler's text. In doing so he gives a clear and helpful account of the individual psychology.

The convinced Freudian may continue to assume the dominance of the sexual factor in, let us say, the interpretation of dreams. Others, and we believe a majority of students of psycho-analytic literature, will agree with Adler that the sexual factor is determined by the goal of superiority. We think that this book strengthens Adler's position, and at the same time makes a very readable addition to the literature of the subject.

*Descriptive Sociology: or, Groups of Sociological Facts Classified and Arranged by Herbert Spencer.* No. 13: *Mesopotamia (The Ancient Inhabitants of the Tigris-Euphrates Lands).* Compiled and Abstracted upon the plan organised by Herbert Spencer, by Reuben Levy. Issued by Mr. Spencer's Trustees (T. W. Hill, Editor). Pp. iv + 49 + 4 tables. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1929.) 42s. net.

THIS wonderful collection of snippets goes on as before. The compiler's industry and the trustees' funds would appear to be practically wasted in the preparation of a commonplace book for the late Mr. Spencer, who is not here to consult it. Under the heading "General Government: Hittites" there is this and nothing more: "*Taxation.* The man who is given absolute possession of landed property must pay a tax on them" (whom?). If the possession "is only partial, he need pay no tax (*A.O.*, xx. p. 11)". How helpful in dealing 'sociologically' with Income Tax Schedule A: how futile, otherwise! J. L. M.

*Glue and Gelatine.* By Paul I. Smith. Pp. x + 162. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., 1929.) 8s. 6d. net.

THE author's general survey of the subject, given within a modest compass, should be of interest and use to the technologist and manufacturer. The book

includes a consideration of the raw materials used in preparing glue, gelatine, and isinglass; the preservation of stock by the glue manufacturer; the plant used in filtration, evaporation, and other general operations; the analysis and uses of glue and gelatine: together with some historical notes.

The chapter on the chemistry of proteins needs careful revision. In the note on amino-acids (p. 21) the prefixes  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  should be interchanged; the structure attributed to alanine is incorrect; and the representation of the primary amino-group may convey the idea that it is bivalent. Esters are misrepresented in the first two structural formulæ on p. 24; on p. 30 leucine is termed "lencin", and its molecule is credited with a primary amino-group attached directly to a carboxyl group! Another quinquevalent carbon atom is represented on p. 138. Comment is also invited by the use of such expressions as "a strata" (p. 39) and "good-quality glue" (p. 54). The book is well printed, and it contains some interesting illustrations.

*Creation by Evolution: a Consensus of Present-day Knowledge as set forth by Leading Authorities in Non-technical Language that all may Understand.* Edited by Frances Mason. Pp. xx + 392 + 22 plates. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1928.) 21s. net.

THERE is much to be said for the method adopted by the editor of associating short essays on different aspects of evolution, each written by a specialist, as a body of evidence designed to appeal to the general reader. If there is bound to be a certain amount of repetition, as when the recapitulation theory or the origin of birds from reptilian stock is discussed by different authors, or a certain amount of inconsistency, as, say, in the attitude adopted towards 'species', these weaknesses are more than atoned for by the variety of style and outlook of the individual contributions. The editor has been fortunate in obtaining as witnesses to the reality of evolution some of the best-known biologists in Great Britain and the United States, and the twenty-six essays, which cover an extraordinarily wide and interesting field, are marked by a simplicity of statement (and occasional dogmatism) which will appeal to the plain man.

*Lehrbuch der Geophysik.* Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. B. Gutenberg. Lieferung 5 (Schluss). Pp. xx + 797-1017. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1929.) 18 gold marks.

THE fifth and last part of Gutenberg's "Lehrbuch der Geophysik" has now appeared. Most of it deals with meteorology, and is by Dr. L. Weickmann. The chief instruments are described, and most of the existing theoretical work is outlined. The result is a handy book, with copious references to original papers, which has long been needed. There are some curious omissions; for example, the chapter on atmospheric friction does not contain the name of G. I. Taylor or of L. F. Richardson. The perfect book on dynamical meteorology will not, however, be written for some time, and meanwhile Weickmann's work is a useful approximation. H. J.