

wards, in 1781. The interesting literary point is that we have in this book, taken down very fully or written out immediately afterwards, Kant's own words in lecturing, and the result is very similar, from the literary point of view, to most of the works of Aristotle.

The main note of Kant's moral system is struck in the earlier section, where he puts aside the Aristotelian doctrine of the mean as an obvious idea of no depth or scope, and lays down his own canon of the moral imperative.

Two other points of special interest to contemporary thought stand out conspicuously. One is the frequent reference to the claim of mankind as a whole: "We should have but a low opinion of ourselves as individuals, but as representatives of mankind we ought to hold ourselves in high esteem". We are to do right not because it is the will of God, though we are led also to believe that it is that, but because it is the prerogative of our nature to do so, all mankind speaking to us through the individual conscience.

The other salient point is the ideal agreement of mankind, which gives us in its purest form the sanction of the moral imperative, and should, in the practical and political form, be the object of all good men to achieve by law and institution on earth. Kant's defence and advocacy of a League of Nations is nowhere more convincingly and fervently expressed than in the concluding paragraphs, which might well be adopted as a motto by the League of to-day. F. S. M.

*The Human Mind.* By Karl A. Menninger. Pp. xiv + 477 + xi. (New York and London: Alfred A. Knopf, 1930.) 21s.

DR. MENNINGER, who is a well-known American psychiatrist, has attempted to place before the lay reader the problems of mental disorder. This is a difficult task, for the subject is a highly technical one, and to make it intelligible and at the same time preserve its dignity would appear to be a task of the severest. Yet the author has presented what is probably the best account of the human mind viewed from the abnormal side. It is a book which may be read to great advantage by psychiatrists as well as the lay reader. The author's explanation of mental mechanisms looked at from an analytic point of view is excellent; and his case records, which are perhaps the most fascinating part of the book, show an extraordinarily wide and sympathetic understanding of the distraught mind. Some of the explanations of aberrant conduct may appear exaggerated to the uninitiated, but they are very familiar to those who have to deal with the mentally abnormal.

*Don Juan and other Psychological Studies.* By Prof. Gonzalo R. Lafora. Translated by Janet H. Perry. Pp. 288. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd., 1930.) 7s. 6d. net.

IN "Don Juan and other Psychological Studies", Prof. Lafora, who occupies the chair in psychiatry of the University of Madrid, presents us with a series of most interesting studies of the abnormal. He describes a patient of his own who very closely

resembles the personality of Don Juan, and considers that it was quite possible for an individual so hopelessly erotic as Don Juan to have existed. In his chapter on lay and religious miraculous cures, he points out that in Lourdes in 1923 only eighteen out of nearly a million invalids who attended were cured. At the same time, no figures are provided of the many who die or are worn out by the journey. A certain number of the cures relapse, yet we are told nothing of this. In his study of cubism and expressionism he points out, as others have done, the resemblance between this form of art and the drawings of so many of the insane. It is quite impossible to tell from a given picture whether the artist was sane or insane. With this statement of the author's we are heartily in agreement. The book throughout is a most level-headed exposition of the abnormal, and to anyone familiar with the writings and drawings of the insane and mentally unbalanced it will appear by no means as an exaggeration.

*Sleep: Why we need It, and How to get It.* By Dr. Donald A. Laird and Charles G. Muller. Pp. x + 212. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1930.) 6s. net.

LAIRD and Muller have made an excellent attempt to solve some of the problems of sleep in a practical manner. It is typically American. One is inclined to take the statement that 60° F. is too cold for children to do good work *cum grano salis*. The book, however, is full of practical points, such as small hints for diminishing noise, etc. It is doubtful if in Great Britain many people lie and read in bed with a lamp attached to the book they are reading so as to assure a constant volume of light. We cannot imagine moth-balls helping to woo sleep. Coffee is found to be not guilty of very many of the cases of disturbance of sleep laid at its door. Excitement during the evening is a much more important sinner.

### Physics.

*A Treatise on Light.* By Dr. R. A. Houstoun. Sixth edition. Pp. xi + 494. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 12s. 6d. net.

THIS treatise, which is now in its sixth edition, is an admirably well balanced book. It is divided into four parts. The first treats of geometrical optics, a subject which some physicists forget is of great practical value. The second discusses physical optics, finishing with the Kerr effect. In part three, spectroscopy and photometry are discussed and the latest developments are described. We expected the author to be more definite about colour-blindness, on which he is an authority; but he has, perhaps wisely, confined himself to a brief statement of the main theories. The descriptions given of the wonderful advances made in spectroscopy, the spectral series, the infra-red, the ultra-violet, and the X-rays will be helpful to many. The last section of the book gives the foundations of the mathematical theory and its later developments, due stress being laid on the quantum theories of the propagation of light and on Poynting's theory