

sterilisation. The author points out that only one defective out of twenty is born of defective parents, that many defectives are unlikely to produce children and that it is mostly the high grade ones who are difficult in this way. This of course is exactly the group that are difficult to deal with from a legal point of view. In the author's opinion, adequate segregation is a much more rational procedure; sterilisation is no solution of the problem of the mental defective.

Psychoanalysis and Medicine: a Study of the Wish to Fall Ill. By Karin Stephen. Pp. vi+238. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1933.) 8s. 6d. net.

DR. KARIN STEPHEN bases her book upon a series of eight lectures which she delivered mostly to medical students at Cambridge. She has an exceptionally good grasp of her subject, and adopts as the basic idea of her book the hypothesis that neurotic symptoms are defences designed to prevent anxiety from developing when repression threatens to give way. Dr. Stephen is an out-and-out Freudian, but there are many who will find fault with her statement ". . . if we can argue by analogy from the neuroses to the other group of psychogenic illnesses, the psychoses (insanity) . . ." It is surely doubtful if any psychosis can be looked on as purely psychogenic in origin. The causation of the psychoses is a very complicated and debatable subject, and although psychoanalysis can offer explanations of mechanisms its theories of causation are not so easily applied or accepted by those best qualified to assess their value in an impartial manner.

The Human Personality. By Dr. Louis Berg. Pp. xv+321. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1933.) 8s. 6d. net.

DR. L. BERG looks on the human personality from the *Gestalt* point of view, a conception which has

been gradually developing during recent years amongst those best qualified to judge. There is a number of unusually sensible statements in this book—perhaps the most sensible is: "We speak of 'problem children' but we should really say problem *parents*." So many problem children are the results of errors of training in the pre-school years. It is only expressing the view of one school of thought to say that manic-depressive insanity, dementia præcox and paranoia are functional diseases. These disorders are not necessarily due to psychic wounds. Kretschmer's rigid views as to the development of cyclothymia in pyknics and dementia præcox in asthenic types have recently had considerable doubt cast upon them and we should adopt an attitude towards them of 'not proven'. To say that "schizoids become insane because of psychic wounds such as sorrow, unhappy love affairs or career failures" is using symptoms to explain causation.

The Way of all Women: a Psychological Interpretation. By Dr. M. Esther Harding. Pp. xv+335. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1933.) 15s. net.

It is an arguable question whether the roots of disorders of conduct and life difficulties are not deeper than can be reached by reading a book, however good it may be. Dr. Harding has attempted to explain many difficulties of life, but whether her explanation would be accepted or not by the neurotic and those in difficulties is another matter. The unconscious has an unfortunate habit of erecting barriers against the very explanations given, and a prolonged analysis is often necessary to get behind these barriers and adjust the mind in difficulties to its difficulties. Apart from this, however, the book contains a wealth of sound advice, and there can be few who, having read it, will not derive benefit if they apply the theory to their practice.

Forthcoming Books of Science

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Edward Arnold and Co.—Hooton Pagnell: The Agricultural Evolution of a Yorkshire Village, Dr. A. G. Ruston and Denis Witney.

Ernest Benn, Ltd.—Modern Flower Growing for Profit, W. E. Shewell-Cooper.

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Thomas Murby and Co.—Soil Analysis: a Handbook of Physical and Chemical Methods, C. H. Wright.

Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd.—Colour in the Garden, M. E. Stebbing; Plants and Shrubs, M. W. Anson.

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Faber and Faber, Ltd.—Black Paradise: a Description of the Saramacca Tribe of Bush-Negroes on the Suriname River of Dutch Guiana, M. and F. Herskovits.

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Luzac and Co.—The India that is India, Sharpe; Hindu Conception of the Deity, Kumarappa (Bharatan).

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Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd.—Children of the Yellow Earth, Prof. J. Gunnar Andersson; New Light on the most Ancient East, Prof. V. Gordon Childe; The Script of Harappa and Mohenjodaro; Egypt and Negro Africa, Prof. C. G. Seligman.

Williams and Norgate, Ltd.—Out with the Cambrians, Evelyn Lewes.