

and obscure, such as 'introspectionism', 'dimensions of relationality', and so on. This is made worse by inadequate editing, which has often allowed a wrong use of ordinary words, such as 'confounded' for 'confused', etc. (2) The author endeavours to reduce the logical gap between methods in natural and social science, and generally his formal argument is plausible enough; but at times he strains it beyond the point where it could stand up to his own tests. That is often evident in his concrete illustrations. "Rather precise" is scarcely scientific, all the less so when to show the possibility of social prediction one has to come down to so naive a level in the scale of proof as to say that "we have a rather definite idea about what will happen to a letter that we mail or to a railway train for which we have purchased a ticket"; or has to reach out beyond any legitimate range so as to claim that the biological side of man is part of social science. (3) The whole elaborate argument does not in the end get beyond the old and hard problem, with its two distinct aspects. One is the logical use of the intellectual instrument, whichever the discipline; the other is the application of the knowledge thus acquired to the building up of generally valid propositions. Here we are faced with the awkward experience that the more systematic a social discipline or school has tried to be, by the somewhat forced use of exact methods, the more dogmatic have tended to be its conclusions, so that often method became identified with doctrine. The author mentions how the controversy about scientific method between the behaviourist and the psycho-analytical schools of psychology clearly showed that each party really wanted to justify not a general method but its particular theory.

Prof. Kaufmann himself says that in this field scientific results must be judged in the light of their success. The social sciences have been much favoured in England, yet the great scholars who have pioneered and led in this field have spent little time on discussions of methodology as such. The interest in methodology has been greater among French scholars, whose logical bent inclined them to seek for universal formal laws, and especially among German scholars, always in search of some metaphysical system; and more recently in America, where bent and facilities have led to heavy labours in the statistical field. In a sense, that intense specialization in the pursuit of the 'scientific' has delayed the synthesis which alone could illuminate the heart of the social problem. Social causation is a matter of an eternally varying interrelation of things; and understanding will come to us not through any set general method, but, as hitherto, through the sensible appraisal at any given time of the several sides of man's life in society.

DAVID MITRANY.

MORBID HISTOLOGY OF THE EYE

A Pathology of the Eye

By Eugene Wolff. Second edition. Pp. vii+285. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1944.) 42s. net.

THE study of ocular pathology occupies a somewhat anomalous position in general pathology. In contrast to the extensive knowledge on the comparative anatomy of the eye, there is little systematized information on comparative pathology. In

human pathology, the position of this specialized study is likewise unsatisfactory. Clinical ophthalmology is probably the most exact of the medical disciplines, for the diseases of the interior of the eye are almost as readily amenable to direct inspection as those of the outer eye. The wealth of biomicroscopic and fundus studies is, however, poorly supported by histological findings. Eye disease rarely leads to death, so that the special eye institutions have only very occasional opportunities of post-mortem examination, while such eyes as are removed in life generally show extensive secondary complications which have led to the removal of the eye; the primary processes themselves are not often seen under the microscope.

For these and other reasons the literature on ocular pathology is sparse and contradictory. If, in addition, ocular pathology is taken in a wider sense to include the mechanism of the disease-processes of the eye, and not merely anatomical end results, an unsatisfactory state of affairs almost reaches exasperation. Any attempt at a systematization of ophthalmic pathology must therefore be regarded with gratitude by the reader and as a Sysiphean task by the author. There are few such studies in English; that by Collins and Mayou represented the most ambitious attempt, both in scope and in its search for an etiological basis for a mass of disconnected histological features. Its obsolete histological interpretations, and its somewhat forced classification, make that book no longer serviceable. Mr. Eugene Wolff brought out a less ambitious attempt some five or six years ago. His "Pathology of the Eye" was essentially an account of what is known of the morbid histology of the common clinical conditions. Its excellent illustrations supplemented a rather elementary text, but the whole constituted an adequate text-book on the morbid anatomy of the eye. It has filled a gap for the student and practitioner, and the second edition shows considerable expansion. The author has wisely curtailed much redundant clinical information that appeared in the first edition, thus making room for further details on morbid histology. There is, however, little in this volume on the wider aspects of pathology as distinct from morbid histology.

In spite of war conditions the high standard of production noticeable in the first edition has been maintained.

SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY

Man and his Fellowmen

Modern Chapters on Social Psychology. By Dr. Samuel Lowy. Pp. xiv+194. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1944.) 15s. net.

THE author of this book is quite evidently better equipped for discerning the social-psychological problems of our times than he is for elaborating the solutions to those problems. Indeed, his suggested solutions, apart from certain valuable exceptions, are inspired by a pathetically child-like confidence in the omniscience of the State. He offers no grounds to support his implied contention that the State itself is immune from those psychological ills from which the people as a whole are suffering.

No one should, however, be deterred by this criticism from buying and reading the book. In such a complex field, to point out the problems accurately, and to lay down the solutions unerringly,