

and he devotes his analysis mainly to the second, which he thinks is much more common.

His theme, accordingly, is the social and intellectual ineffectiveness of the obsessive person. Beyond a reference to the fact that Janet saw in the obsessive's difficulties a failure to develop in early life the skills necessary for ordinary social communication, the discussion avoids the etiology of obsession and attempts rather to elucidate its nature and effects. Since nearly every intelligent person suffers obsessive episodes from time to time, the personal and social disruption caused by them must be of interest to all those concerned with human organization.

Janet's interest in the study of hysteria led him to devise his "method of distraction" and to develop his theory of the dissociation of the personality into primary and secondary selves. Retraction of the field of consciousness and dissociation he held to be the two characteristic features of the hysteric. This work gave him an appreciation of the complexity of the attentive act and enabled him to describe with great insight the nature of obsession, though he realized that he was now dealing with disturbances of a different order. In his studies of obsession he shows that every successful act of attention presupposes an ordered background of contributory reflexes and skills. On the interplay between acts of attention and reflective thinking, which gives unity to experience, depends the capacity for decision and action. It is in the attentive act, according to Janet, that the obsessive's disability manifests itself.

The reader may be somewhat surprised to find that Prof. Mayo omits any reference to the work of the late H. S. Sullivan who, more perhaps than any other modern psychiatrist, succeeded in synthesizing many of the ideas of Freud and Janet. Janet's notion of retraction of the conscious field becomes, in Sullivan's hands, the "principle of selective inattention". Sullivan supplements this principle with his important theory of "prehension", or perception without awareness (which I have elsewhere suggested needs to be completed by introducing a concept of 'apprehension', that is, apperception without awareness). In the writings of Sullivan, Janet's ideas seem to have so far found their most astute elaboration.

JOHN COHEN

FISH AND FISHERIES OF AUSTRALIA

Fish and Fisheries of Australia

By T. C. Roughley. Completely revised and enlarged edition. Pp. xv+344+81 plates. (Sydney and London: Angus and Robertson, Ltd., 1951.) 50s.

MORE than thirty years ago, Mr. T. C. Roughley published a book entitled "Fishes of Australia and their Technology", illustrated with sixty-eight colour plates of common Australian fishes. That book has long since been out of print and unobtainable; but a continuing demand for it has induced the author to write a new and larger volume—"Fish and Fisheries of Australia"—which is now available. The publishers' description of the new book as a "completely revised and enlarged edition" of the former one seems scarcely accurate.

The book is in two parts. In Part 1 the occurrence, habits, edible qualities and commercial or sporting importance of more than a hundred and fifty kinds

of fish are described in detail and there are brief references to many more. In order, no doubt, to keep the book within reasonable limits of size, little information is included from which identifications can be made; for this the reader must rely on the plates. These are all of very high quality; but they are relatively few in number, and the absence of precise descriptions of distinguishing features limits the value of the book.

Part 2 is concerned with the industry and sport. The annual value of Australia's total fish production is small—less than one-fiftieth of that of the United States. Mr. Roughley's explanation is that "the southern hemisphere lacks the vast concentrations of fish characteristic of northern hemisphere waters", although he also admits that Australian exploitation of her pelagic fishes could probably be greatly stepped up. He offers little hope of any great expansion of demersal fishing, for already some of the most important estuarine and offshore demersal fishing grounds are being overfished, and conservation rather than expansion must be the future policy. In fresh waters, pond culture, which has not yet been tried to any great extent, is believed to offer possibilities, and the fisheries departments of both New South Wales and Victoria plan to investigate them.

Many other fishery activities are dealt with, including shark fishing, big-game angling, spear-gun fishing and fish canning. An interesting final chapter briefly describes some native fishing methods, several of which are still practised by Aborigines in northern Queensland, where the influence of the white man has not yet penetrated.

The author has gallantly attempted to present an Australian rather than a State picture. The attendant benefits of using so broad a canvas more than outweigh the disadvantages—which are many—and the book should have a ready sale in Australia, despite its high price. It should, however, be supplemented as soon as possible by companion volumes dealing in much greater detail with regional fish faunas and their fisheries.

G. A. STEVEN

SURVEY OF HORMONES

Hormones

A Survey of their Properties and Uses. (Published by direction of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.) Pp. xii+220. (London: Pharmaceutical Press, 1951.) 35s. net.

THE publication of a volume of some two hundred pages, which sets out to survey the properties and uses of hormones for "pharmacists, medical practitioners, students and other interested persons", raises hopes of a general review which would necessarily be compressed but would bring together the scattered contributions from different branches of science to the problems of endocrinology. Perhaps no one man could successfully write all such a book, and it might have to be a composite production, under the guidance of an editor with the necessary breadth of view. This book, with four named contributors, seems to have had no editor other than the anonymous writer of the preface, which, ominously enough, begins with a quotation from Starling in which $\delta\rho\mu\acute{\alpha}\omega$ is misprinted $\delta\rho\mu\acute{\alpha}\omega$.

The result is a collection of articles pitched at different levels, making independent approaches to different aspects of the same subject, entirely without