

in a good book. The reviewer considers this to be a truly excellent book of the sort that the author intends.

It is clear from the preface, and from the body of the book as well, that the student is expected to have had more than one year of algebra in the secondary school and to have studied in high school at least enough trigonometry to have met the various methods of solving oblique triangles.

The main theme of the book is algebraic. The author succeeds in merging the trigonometry in this algebraic pattern by emphasizing the analytic aspects of the trigonometry. Not until the fourteenth chapter does the student meet logarithmic computation and the logarithmic solution of triangles, and then somewhat as asides following upon the discussion of exponential and logarithmic functions and equations.

The final chapters of the book, the fifteenth and sixteenth, set forth the usual ideas concerning rational integral equations, permutations, combinations and probability. The discussion of Descartes's Rule includes complete exposition of the modification "or less by an even integer."

A listing of the contents of the earlier chapters will suffice to give the pattern the author is following. First, number systems, in order to motivate the adoption of the basic assumptions and definitions of algebra. Then, in Chapter 2, variable, functions, graphs. Chapter 3 begins with the general angle and radians, followed by right triangle and polar coordinates. (Remember, the student is supposed to have studied a bit of trigonometry in high school. If he hasn't, he is not likely to appreciate this book.) Chapter 4 considers algebraic identities, conditional equations; then trigonometric identities and equations. (Trigonometric equations appear again in Chapter 9, under equations in quadratic form, and in Chapter 12, under inverse functions.) Systems of linear equations and determinants—no trigonometry—make up Chapter 5. Chapter 6 treats the trigonometric functions of several angles. The remaining chapters, dealing with mathematical induction, complex numbers, progressions, inequalities and functional variation, tend to bear out the author's claim that this book is indeed an integrated course in algebra and analytic trigonometry.

Only one slight blemish: the reviewer does not agree that permuting the letters in the Law of Cosines, proved for the side opposite an acute angle, serves also to establish this law for the side opposite an obtuse angle. Nevertheless, he is glad to cite this text as a practically perfect example of book-making. The exposition throughout, the exercises and the practical aspects of the book all appear to be very fine indeed.

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ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Textbook of Abnormal Psychology. By R. M. DORCUS and G. W. SHAFFER. Third edition. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1945. \$4.00.

THIS revision of a text-book which is widely used in colleges and universities brings it up to date in respect to the materials presented, while preserving the virtues of the earlier editions. The authors do not present their topics from a single, selected point of view; but give the diverse views of various authors on points which are theoretical or controversial. While the fact that the reviewer disagrees with the authors on some points is immaterial, four items may be given critical attention in this brief review.

Although the text as a whole makes it evident that most theories in the field of abnormal psychology and psychiatry are devoid of experimental foundations, the popular theory adopted by the authors to the effect that in an epileptic seizure the patient is unconscious (p. 290) needs critical examination. In some cases it can be demonstrated experimentally that in the critical phase of a convulsive seizure, the epileptic is conscious, perceptually conscious at least, although his perceptual field may be restricted in scope; but after the seizure is over, he may have retrograde amnesia for the seizure-period.

The theory adopted in the text—that a psychoneurosis affects only a part of the "personality," while a psychosis affects the whole "personality" (p. 354)—is, of course, a rationalization, that is, it is an attempt to interpret rationally something which is basically irrational. One who adopts this rationalization would have to admit that every psychosis commences as a neurosis; which destroys the distinction claimed. He would have to ignore the existence of neurotics who are as completely disorganized as are many who are classed as psychotics. He would have to ignore also the fact that psychiatrists differ as to whether certain cases are neuroses or functional psychoses. The distinction actually seems, like Topsy, to have "just growed up."

The theory that the primary cause of involutional melancholia is dysfunction of the sex-glands is adopted by the authors by implication, if not explicitly (p. 351); a theory which ignores the high probability that the decrease in secretion of the sex-hormone may be only a predisposing cause in some cases and a precipitating cause in others, the primary cause being psychological in all cases. In every case the reviewer has examined, the psychological cause or causes of the mental feature of the disorder have been readily discernible. The probability is indicated by the occurrence of the mental disorder in some cases several years before the menopause, and by the absence of mental disorder at the menopause in the majority of women.

Two commendations are in order: one is for the sparing use of the term "personality," which is used only in presenting the views of writers who depend upon the term in one or more of its several meanings; the term not appearing in the subject-index at all. The authors, it is obvious, do not endorse what has been called the "personality racket," which in recent years has become a substitute for psychology. One might wish, however, that the authors had indicated that the term can be eliminated from statements in which it occurs; or be replaced by simple terms such as "person" and "personal," with improvement in clarity and definiteness.

The brief discussion of introversion—extroversion (p. 338), presents a thesis which is in agreement with the commercialized tests for detection of introverts and extroverts, and the approved method of scoring those tests, although it is not in accord with the definitions commonly given for extroversion and introversion. This thesis would have been worth expanding into greater detail.

This is not a book for casual reading; but as a textbook, and a book of reference, the wealth of digested materials, and the unusually critical attitude of the authors make it invaluable. The bibliography is extensive, containing 833 titles, to all of which references are made in text; while the author-index and the subject-index are satisfactorily competent.

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TROPICAL MEDICINE

Manual of Tropical Medicine. Prepared under the auspices of the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council. By THOMAS T. MACKIE, GEORGE W. HUNTER, III and C. BROOKE WORTH. 727 pp., including 287 illustrations. W. B. Saunders Company. 1945.

THE present war has taken thousands of the members of our armed forces to far distant lands. In these unfamiliar surroundings and with new experiences, many of the letters home, particularly from those individuals stationed in the tropics, contain weird descriptions of horrible diseases seemingly widespread among the natives: tropical diseases, more to be feared than the enemy. These reports have aroused considerable apprehension in the family circle and have been too often the basis for articles in the lay press. In general the writers are referring to advanced stages of diseases not necessarily maladies indigenous only to the tropics, since primitive people, if they seek medical attention at all, rarely do so in the early stages of sickness. It is most difficult to delimit from the broad field of medicine the scope of

tropical medicine. Those diseases which have their greatest incidence in hot, humid climates, and those which are greatly influenced in clinical appearance and prognosis by such an environment fall under the designation "tropical medicine."

In 1942 Dr. Richard Strong prepared a revision of Stitt's "Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment of Tropical Diseases." These two volumes became at once the standard text-book in this field. The need for a more concise presentation of the subject was envisioned and the authors of the present volume, all colleagues of Dr. Strong in the Army Medical School, undertook the task. The appearance of this manual in the series of military handbooks sponsored by the National Research Council is most timely.

In arranging the contents of the manual, the text was condensed and augmented with tables, summaries and charts, thus making available an unusual wealth of material. The authors have had a unique opportunity not only to prepare an authoritative manual, but to sense the needs of students entering the field of tropical medicine, because of their association with the Army Medical School. In addition to this group, the manual is to be highly recommended for those who wish to familiarize themselves with the subject in a somewhat more general way.

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