

Intelligence of Mental Defectives with Congenital Syphilis. (Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Study of the Feeble-minded, 1926.) Dayton, Neil A.

The writer finds that "when congenital syphilis initiates the pathological process resulting in mental deficiency, it is less severe because a higher average of intelligence is attained than in cases with other ætiology."

H. FREIZE STEPHENS.

The Neuropsychiatric Import of the Personality Reactions of Mental Defectives. (Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Study of the Feeble-minded, 1926.) Heldt, Thos. F.

The significance of the personality reactions of aments is only partially understood, and all too common is the habit of regarding their actions and reactions as simple and obvious. There are similar reasons for delinquency in aments as there are in the normal. Psycho-pathologists lay much stress on our instinctive urges, yet, Dr. Heldt complains, when confronted with mental defectives in whom sex-urge, aggression and fear may stand out prominently, many are the psycho-analysts who exclaim "We can analyse only the intelligent." Without desiring to be unduly critical, Dr. Heldt would "emphasize the need of ways and means of interpreting the behaviour of the mental defective. Motivation and rationalization studies are sorely needed."

H. FREIZE STEPHENS.

Defects in the Zone of Language (Word-deafness and Word-blindness) and their Influence in Education and Behaviour. (Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Study of the Feeble-minded, 1926.) McCready, E. B.

The aphasias of childhood, while they occur in children of normal and even superior intelligence, are far more common in aments. Such conditions, especially word-blindness, leading to backwardness in school are frequent sources of behaviour difficulties, while inevitably the emotional life of the individual is affected. Their recognition, therefore, as the writer points out, is of tremendous importance not only in avoiding an unjust diagnosis of amentia, but also in the application of proper educational methods to the training of such mental defectives. "Even the minor degrees leading to delayed and impaired speech and difficulties in reading and number work should be recognized in order that appropriate special training may be given." It is the writer's opinion that the conditions of juvenile aphasia in varying degrees of severity are quite common in aments, and that teachers and others should know this and modify their methods of instruction accordingly.

H. FREIZE STEPHENS.

7. Sociology.

The Classification of Delinquents. (Medico-Legal Journ., New York, July, 1926.) Richmond, Frank C.

The Psychiatric Field Service of Wisconsin came into being in July, 1925. It aims at making a physical and mental examination

of all persons admitted into penal institutions, and of all inmates thereof who apply for parole. During a period of eleven months, 4,324 cases were examined. The results of these examinations are not given. The object was to individualize delinquents, with a view to the adoption of suitable measures for their rehabilitation, where that process was possible. Some system of classification was found to be necessary. The system which has been devised is outlined in this article. The classification is adequate, but is, perhaps, unduly elaborated. There are eight main groups, which include a large number of sub-headings. Like all other classifications, the grouping is open to criticism. For example, the "sexual pervert" type is placed in the "mentally degenerate" class of the "mentally defective" group. But cases of this kind will often be found within the "psycho-neurotic" class or the "mental conflicts" type. Any system of classification is better than none, but we fear that many offenders would have, ultimately, to be placed in the "atypical" or "unclassifiable" group, which ends the list. An intelligence quotient below 70 is assigned as the standard for mental deficiency. Dr. Richmond declares strongly against what he terms the "mechanical theory of human organism."

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Why Alienists disagree in Legal Trials. (Medico-Legal Journ., New York, July, 1926.) Tepley, Leo V.

The disagreement of medical witnesses is an old topic for comment and for sarcasm, although it is probable that they exhibit no greater divergence than do other kinds of expert witness. The phenomenon is more common in America than in this country. This is due, as the article points out, to the pernicious practice of regarding the medical witness as being, necessarily, a partisan, and to the use of the "hypothetical question." From this latter nuisance we are, in this country, comparatively free. So far as criminal trials are concerned, we also have the advantage of possessing, in the medical officers of our larger prisons, a body of experts, whose evidence is always recognized as being strictly impartial. The author despairs of any solution, save that of trying every criminal as to his guilt, leaving the investigation of his mentality to an "impartial board of alienists."

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

8. Mental Hospital Reports.

ENGLAND.

London County.—In the annual report of the Council for the year 1925, it is shown that the actual accommodation for mental patients at present is a total of 19,290 beds (excluding Claybury Hall), but when certain works now in hand are completed the total number of beds available will be 19,792 (males 8,303, females 11,489), and to this figure must be added the 429 beds at Ewell Colony, which have now been handed back to the Council by the Ministry of