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## Reviews and Criticisms

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## REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

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THE SOCIAL CASE HISTORY: ITS CONSTRUCTION AND CONTENT. By *Ada Eliot Sheffield*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1920. 227 p. (Social Work Series.)

This little volume, long awaited by social workers, is evidence of the growing definiteness of social case-work and of the increasing precision with which the problems of distress and its treatment are being formulated. The importance of the record in legal practice and as the basis for appropriate medical treatment has long been recognized; but the equally fundamental relationship of the record to constructive social treatment has been only recently understood, and the development of that understanding into a fine "art of case-recording" is seriously retarded by the fact that keeping records and making a case history is costly, and that contributors to charitable funds frequently prefer to apply their gifts to the uses of material relief.

This compact discussion takes notice of the undeveloped state of the art and undertakes rather to set out the underlying principles on which an art can be developed than to lay down rules for the practice of the art. The nature of the record, it is pointed out, will be determined by the kinds of purpose to be served. The ends of social case-work, in Mrs. Sheffield's opinion, are three: (1) The effective treatment of individuals needing service; (2) general social betterment; (3) the establishing of habits of critical thinking on the part of the social case-worker. These objects have, of course, not always been sought by social agencies. The material relief of the destitute was until a fairly recent date the exclusive object of many agencies, and the agencies were chiefly concerned to show by such records as they kept that they had applied the funds given them to the objects for which those funds had been given. The records of these earlier efforts to relieve distress contain chiefly names of beneficiaries and lists of articles given or of amounts of money bestowed upon applicants for aid. As the resources for care have increased in variety and in amount, and as the kinds of services have greatly multiplied, the history must contain both the facts on which a choice of the kind of treatment can be based and a record of the effects of that treatment in its various stages. Mrs. Sheffield's judgment is that records now begin to give evidence also of an effort on the part of social workers to advance the movement for social betterment through the setting forth of typical instances of social maladjustment, with the evidence and the consequences of that maladjustment so exhibited that all may see. The discussion of the Case History covers the following points: (1) The basis for choice of the material; (2) the documents that constitute the history; (3) the composition of the narrative, and (4) the wider implications of case-recording. Very brief notice will be taken here of certain suggestions in connection with these subjects.

As to the choice of material, it is obvious that the facts that are

"significant for treatment" will vary with the possibilities for choice as to treatment, with the definiteness of the appreciation on the part of the case-worker regarding those choices, and with her power of relating evidence of need to kind of treatment. It is in this connection that the effect of the record on the habits of constructive thinking is most apparent. In connection with the discussion of the documents necessary to the record, the place of adequacy and regularity of income in modern treatment emerges with the proposal that a budget sheet should be included among the documents necessary. The problem of the family, as at once a unit and a number of individuals appears in the proposal that even in records of family problems there be a sheet for the record of each child.

The discussion of the composition of the narrative is extremely interesting and suggestive. The task is one of presenting, with due regard to the economy of the time of the worker and of the office staff, an account of the dealing of the agency with the family or the individual on which can be based later action by the same agency acting through different workers and decisions of other agencies who may not have had direct contact with the work already done. With the growing inter-relation of agencies in the care of the same individual, increases the opportunity and the necessity for an understanding of the basis of decision as the ground for constructive and purposeful co-operation. This little volume should be welcomed not only by the older family case-work agencies, but by the new social service divisions connected with such specialized courts as the juvenile courts, the courts of domestic relations, morals courts, and others of the same general character.

University of Chicago.

S. T. BRECKINRIDGE.

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FOUNDATIONS OF FEMINISM: A CRITIQUE. By *Barnett Avrom*. New York: McBride, 1921. PP. 245. \$2.50.

*Part I. Biological Foundations: Sex and Feminism.* The author starts with an exposition of Weininger's contention of female types of men and male types of Women. Although there were then no biological data to substantiate Weininger's views, recent studies of the mechanism of sex determination sustain them, and show sex type to be dependent upon the balance of development of the ductless glands. Their underdevelopment or atrophy "will result in such displacement of the normal hormonal equilibrium that the true female or male will take on certain secondary characters of the other sex."

Lester F. Ward, who holds that all sex was originally female, is attacked because writers on feminism have based their work on his theory. Barnott contends that discussions of the woman movement based upon biological data are worse than useless because those data are mostly wrong. "Nobody seems to realize that feminism neither has nor requires biological justification." It is a simple passion for freedom and needs no logic nor rationalization, but only a program based upon an understanding of unconscious psychological experience

and sub-conscious forces. "The George-Wagstaff, Ward, Christie-Galichan type, with nothing to express but the redigested conviction of the true Olive Shreiner-Ellen Key feminist type, is forced to embellish what is felt with what has been learned or read. The result has been in the biological field, for example, the aimless scientific potpourri which we have reviewed."

*Part II. Psychological and Physiological Foundations: Sex Differences as a Basis for Sex Spheres.* The attack here is upon feminists who believe all fields of work ought to be open equally to men and women. Women may thus attain an ideal, but ruin their health and cause a great wastage of good hereditary material which ought to be saved. Mrs. Atherton is quoted as saying: "There is something insidiously fascinating in work to women who never have worked."

Havelock Ellis undertook to show greater variability among males than females; and Thorndike, endorsing this view of lesser variability of women, wants to limit them to mediocre vocations, believing it futile to lavish on them all kinds of training and education. Leta Stetter Hollingworth shows Thorndike's statements to rest upon deplorably small evidence.

After examining studies on variability, the author concludes that (1) "There is no experimental evidence proving directly that either of the sexes is more variable than the other anatomically or physically." (2) Neither is there any evidence that one or the other is inherently more variable. (3) It seems impossible actually to measure inherent variability, and (4) speculation as to which sex is *probably* more variable inherently, leads to the conclusion that the female at least equals the male and not improbably surpasses him. (5) The variability of the male is due to processes going on in the female.

The answer to the query why there are no more female geniuses is that motherhood diverts sex energy that might otherwise go to the making of genius. Biologists have failed to detect by actual measurements any difference in intellectual capacity, and so the hypothesis of innate intellectual sex difference is discharged. Women now want similar evidence for a physical equality, and ask whether physiological functions of normal women are more subject to disturbance than those of normal men. No proof is the answer; but the abnormal strain put upon women in industry, the necessity for standing or sitting in one position and the constant grind and monotony makes for nervousness, anemia and barrenness. Ellen Key does not find that woman's salvation lies in industry, although she wants economic independence. She counsels a career centering about the child and the home. Many feminists claim that the woman and the labor problems are identical. There is the problem of woman and labor, but the problem of woman and motherhood comes first.

*Part III. Sociological Foundations: Labor and Motherhood.* Ellen Key's strength lies in the appeal she makes to the mother and homing instincts. The Gilman school of feminism magnifies out of all proportion the development of personality, and suppresses the maternal

instinct; an attitude which, according to Freudian views, must put such a strain upon women as to produce abnormalities.

The intellectual group of women is characterized as parasites, and economic dependence is blamed for woman's present position, but intellectual work is different from the deadly monotony of work in factories. It is the intellectual woman who paints bright pictures of economic independence; her work is play, but for the factory worker, work is work. Women are abandoning the slavery of a husband, but taking on the slavery of industry. If industry is more oppressive than marriage, they will revert to marriage as a relief. Suffrage will ameliorate working conditions for women. Walter Lippman thinks women will not stay in industry. There are too many opposing forces; as they join the labor unions they will only dilute the market, lower men's wages, and diminish their own chance of marriage. Industry has been a much-needed education for women, but it has brought disillusionment with it. The state will influence the partial withdrawal of women from industry because of the increase in death rate and the decrease in birth rate. When the effect of modern factory work upon potential motherhood is known, exploitation of motherhood for private gain will be stopped. The woman's movement is a healthy sign of the times. Men, in order to maintain a superior position in sex relationship will have to master women not merely by physical, but by mental strength.

Psychopathic Institute, Chicago.

CLARA S. BETTMAN.

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ESSENTIALS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY. By *Emory S. Bogardus*. New and enlarged ed. Los Angeles: Univ. of Cal. Press, 1920. Pp. 504.

"The interactions of personalities in groups" form the subject matter of this textbook in which social phenomena are minutely analyzed and classified. There is little original interpretation. The authorities most relied upon are Sidis, Ross, McDougall and, in the field of imitation, Tarde. The author's position is midway between the subjective (psychological) point of view exemplified by McDougall and the objective (sociological) point of view taken by Ross; he holds that the two views are reconcilable, and that both are necessary to a complete, synthetic understanding. The contents by chapters are:

- I. The Field, Development and Literature of Social Psychology.
- II. Psychological Bases of Social Psychology.
- III, IV, V. The Social Personality.
- VI, VII, VIII. Suggestion-Imitation Phenomena.
- IX, X. Invention and Leadership.
- XI. The Nature of Groups.
- XII. Group Conflicts.
- XIII. Group Loyalties.
- XIV. Group Control.
- XV. Social Change and Progress.

"Social progress is the result of a constructive conflict between individual leadership and social control."

At the end of each chapter are from 20 to 30 "problems" and a list of references for reading.

Psychopathic Institute, Chicago.

HELEN SEYMOUR.

YOUTH AND ITS PROBLEMS. By *Winfield Scott Hall*. The Sex Life of Man. Philadelphia: Winston, 1919. Pp. 266. \$1.00.

The author states that he has written the book "in order to spread wholesome information and to instill idealistic inspiration," and to set forth as clearly as possible "carefully tested facts." The statements are simple and direct so that the book can be placed in the hands of any adolescent boy, or can be used as a guide by adults who have to impart sex knowledge to youths. The physical development of youth into manhood, sexual hygiene, and the physiology and anatomy of the male sexual organs are some of the subjects taught. Dr. Hall is a member of the faculty of Northwestern University and claims to base his book on the latest scientific data.

Psychopathic Institute, Chicago.

CLARA S. BETTMAN.

CHARACTER TRAINING IN CHILDHOOD. By *Mary S. Haveland*. Boston: Small, Maynard, 1920. Pp. 296.

This volume of suggestive hints about training children calls attention to the importance of the seemingly insignificant. A good deal of scientific knowledge and good judgment underlie its sketchy outline. The contents are:

Part I. The Physical Basis of Character.

Part II. Early Habit Forming: The need of establishing right habits, directing the will, controlling the emotions and cultivating self-reliance.

Part III. Growth Through Play: The need of play; guiding play; the "make believe" of the child; constructive and co-operative play.

Part IV. Growth Through Study.

Part V. Growth Through Work.

Part VI. The Child and His Vocation.

Part VII. The religious Education of the Child.

Psychopathic Institute, Chicago.

CLARA S. BETTMAN.

SOCIAL EVOLUTION. By *Benjamin Kidd*. New edition, revised, with additions. N. Y.: Putnam, 1921. Pp. 404, incl.; 4 appendices and index.

It takes the author 82 pages to tell the reader that the interests of the individual and those of the social organism to which he belongs are not identical. He formulates with much digression four postulates which he considers the underlying principles of history:

(1) "All religion is essentially ultra-rational. No form of belief is capable of functioning as a religion in the evolution of society which

does not provide sanctions for conduct beyond and superior to reason."

(2) "The social system founded on a form of religious belief forms an organic growth which is the seat of a series of historical phenomena unfolding themselves in obedience to laws that may be enunciated."

(3) "The process at work in human society is always developing two inherently antagonistic but complementary tendencies, namely, (a) the tendency requiring the increasing subordination of the individual to society; and (b) the rationalistic tendency leading the individual at the same time to question, with increasing insistence, the authority of the claims requiring him to submit to a process of social order in which he has absolutely no interest, and which is operating largely in the interests of unborn generations. In a healthy and progressive society, the fundamental principle of its existence is that the second tendency must be continually subordinated to the first. But the intellect has no power to effect this subordination."

(4) The problem with which every progressive society stands confronted is how to retain the highest operative ultra-rational sanction for those onerous conditions of life which are essential to the maintenance of its place in the evolutionary process; and at one and the same time allow the freest play to those intellectual forces which, while tending to come into conflict with this sanction, contribute nevertheless to raise to the highest degree of social efficiency the whole of its members.

Psychopathic Institute, Chicago.

CLARA S. BETTMAN.

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PSYCHOLOGY OF FUNCTIONAL NEUROSES. By *H. L. Hollingworth*. New York: Appleton, 1920. Pp. 258, with index. \$2.00.

The author is a psychologist who, at Plattsburg, had the opportunity of studying 1,000 cases of functional disturbance following service in the field. His book sets forth a concept called redintegration—"a useful psychological description of the psychoneurotic constitution." The first five chapters develop an application of this concept and form the theoretic contribution of the book. The second part gives the results of psychometric examination of the cases, showing the influence of the armistice on those examinations. The last five chapters consider problems of mental ability and chronological age in adults, and contain a study of the reliability of the group survey, a review of mental measurements and standards used, and an account of the value of psychological service in neuropsychiatric hospitals.

Hamilton used the term "redintegration" to indicate the tendency of a complex idea to be reinstated upon the recurrence of one of its constituent parts. The redintegrative mechanism, developed by Hollingworth from this idea, is conceived as a process in which part of a complex stimulus provokes the complete reaction previously made to the complex stimulus as a whole. This type of reaction is the essential characteristic of a psychoneurotic make-up, but it also occurs in many situations not psychoneurotic, especially among children and primitive people. Inasmuch as redintegration is part of normal behavior, it is

necessary to distinguish between normal and abnormal reintegration. In normal reaction to a part for a whole, a relevant detail is the stimulus, and that detail is perceived in its proper relation. Abnormal types show characteristic distortions of this process. The hypo-manic tendency is toward premature reaction. The mental defective reacts on a low level because of perceptual limitations. Dementia praecox shows a perseveration of a particular reaction pattern and inhibition of all other patterns. In the psychoneurotic the disposition is to react to irrelevant details. The defect involved is a lack of sagacity and discrimination, and Hollingworth points out in this connection that absence of a sense of humor is characteristic of the psychoneurotic. His theory leads him to make a poor prognosis for the psychoneurotic, and to place little confidence in the efficacy of re-education, in which alone therapeutic hope lies.

On the basis of the nature of response patterns and the disposition of the central nervous system, he differentiates three levels of response: (1) The postural or cerebello-spinal level, having to do with the attitude and behavior of the physical organism; (2) the cortical level, having to do with the cognitive aspects of consciousness, including also gestures that are concerned in an awareness of meaning, and (3) an autonomic level, having to do with organic, vaso-motor, sphincter, glandular process, etc. Reintegration occurs on every level—for example, on the postural level, a soldier on hearing a loud noise crouches, runs or falls; on the cortical level he recalls his experiences in the form of imagery, etc.; on the emotional level there is a widespread organic commotion associated with fear. If reintegration occurs merely on the cortical level, it constitutes a normal act of perception, and through this level the individual controls his posture or the autonomic system. Successful cortical reintegration eliminates the psychoneurotic element.

The infantilism of the psychoneurotic is seen in his lack of sagacity, which is a component of intelligence, and hence ought to show in mental measurements. Hollingworth tries to prove a correlation between psychoneurosis and stupidity, using the group survey, Stanford performance and Alpha tests, or combinations of these. Dividing the symptoms according to the three levels of response, he finds a correlation of specific symptoms with intelligence. Class I includes all definitely physical symptoms, any objective bodily disability clearly not interfering with the patient's work, such as fits, tremors, stuttering, etc. In class III are subjective symptoms, psychic complaints, such as fears, worries, anxiety, etc. Class II is intermediate, comprising the composite cases. So classified, the median mental age in class I is 10.9 years (86 cases); in class II, 12.0 years (69 cases); and in class III, 14.5 years (27 cases). Hence the lower the individual soldier is in intelligence, the more liable is he to postural symptoms of the conversion type, and the less liable to more strictly neurasthenic and still less liable to the more exclusively mental and psychasthenic symptoms.

A study was made of the role of motivation, based on compari-

son of responses before and after the armistice to a questionnaire (Woodworth's psychoneurotic inventory) concerning clinical complaints. In the case of psychoneuroses and hysteria, the symptoms fell to 19 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively, indicating that the clinical symptoms manifested by the patient are determined in large degree by his motivation.

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DAVID M. LEVY.

MENTAL DISORDERS, BRIEFLY DESCRIBED AND CLASSIFIED. By *Dr. Charles B. Thompson*. Baltimore: Warwick & York, 1920. Pp. 48. 75c.

This pamphlet is composed with a view to its use in conjunction with the observation of cases. The subject matter is classified under two types of mental disorders: (1) Those associated with physical or chemical injury to brain tissue; (2) those which seem to exist only on psychological bases. Under the first are physical injuries such as general paresis, traumatic disorders, senile psychosis, arteriosclerotic psychosis, localized injury, diffuse nervous diseases, brain tumor, brain syphilis, brain abscess, organic brain disease, idiocy and feeble-mindedness, constitutional inferiority; toxic injuries, such as alcoholic psychoses, drug psychoses, toxic-infective-exhaustive reaction type. Under the second are the marked mental disorders such as elation-depression oscillation, depressions other than of manic-depressive group, atypical excitements, paranoia, dementia praecox, and the neuroses of apparently well people, such as neurasthenia, psychasthenia, hysteria, anxiety neurosis. There follows a brief statement of principles of treatment of mental disorders and principles of prevention of mental disorders.

Northwestern University.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

QUICKSANDS OF YOUTH. By *Franklin Chase Hoyt*. New York: Scribners, 1921. Pp. 241. \$1.75.

This little book by the presiding justice of the Children's Court of the City of New York contains nine chapters, whose titles are as follows: The Spirit of the Children's Court, A Recruit for Law and Order, Citizens in the Making, Twenty Months After, The Gang in Embryo, In Quest of Change and Adventure, Sometimes We Smile, Sore Let and Hindered, When the Call Comes to Them. The book comprises, as the titles indicate, an attractive group of human interest stories drawn from the intimate associations that develop between a high-minded juvenile court judge and his wards.

Northwestern University.

ROBERT H. GAULT.