

and treatment of the psychoses and neuroses, there are others on alcoholism, mental deficiency, epilepsy and emotional problems in the geriatric patient, this last being excellent.

The description of electro-convulsive therapy as being only sometimes modified by muscle relaxants and anaesthesia differs from common British practice. The style, though generally lucid, is not graceful, and many sentences begin 'Too', meaning 'In addition'. This comprehensive survey has its merits, but is not to be recommended without reservation.

Social Rehabilitation of the Subnormal. HERBERT C. GUNZBURG, M.A., PH.D., F.B.P.S.S. London. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, Ltd. 1960. Pp. v + 263. Price 27s. 6d.

This book by the director of psychological services at Monyhull Hospital, Birmingham, is a fascinating piece of work which shows how much can be done by men devoted to their task. It is concerned with the dullards, the subnormal adult persons who have become social failures, and indicates what can be done for them, both by institutional training and treatment, and in adjusting them to society after they leave their institution. The author is obviously an enthusiast, and his work is much more interesting than the title suggests.

In this country about 52,000 people are cared for in hospitals for the subnormal. Some 7,000 await admission, while more than 80,000 are under some form of supervision outside the hospitals. The most reliable reports from this and other countries suggest that from one to one and a half per cent of the population are sufficiently subnormal to be classified as mentally defective. For these 30 to 35 in the average doctor's practice this book will ensure that the correct course of training and treatment is advocated. Traditional prejudice has often made workers in this field believe that their time and energy is wasted in trying to cope with the problem. Dr Gunzburg shows clearly the schemes of work and therapeutics available for subnormals who can be rehabilitated for their return to the community at large, even though their tested intelligence may be in the "imbecile" range, and those subnormals who show "psychopathic disorder".

The chapter on "Counselling the delinquent and the maladjusted" is a model of its kind and could be read with advantage by all family doctors, local authority officers, probation officers, welfare workers, mental health officers, magistrates, and teachers, to whom much of the book is also directed. There have been many disquieting reports in the sensational press on the alleged mismanagement of the

mentally deficient. This account of the determined work that is being carried out in this field should do much to reassure those sections of the public who have been disquieted by such reports.

The author hopes earnestly that this book will help to make readers aware that the subnormal personality is a real problem only as long as we avoid tackling it. It is not solved by certifying the subnormal or disposing of him in an institution, nor by evading institutional training and treatment to escape the "stigma". To the reviewer, at least, he has certainly succeeded in his task.

The book is pleasantly printed on good paper with 16 plates and numerous charts and diagrams. The type-setting shows a certain lack of imagination with lack of emphasis on chapter and section headings, which makes for more fatigue in reading than is strictly necessary.

Atlas and Manual of Dermatology and Venereology. W. BURCKHARDT. Translated and edited by STEPHAN EPSTEIN, M.D. London. Baillière, Tindall & Cox, Ltd., 1959. Pp. 1—281. Price 112s.

This is a translation of *Atlas und Praktikum der Dermatologie und Venereologie* by Professor W. Burckhardt, director of the Municipal Policlinic for Skin and Venereal Diseases in Zurich. It has been translated and edited for the American market by Dr Stephan Epstein.

In his preface to the American edition Dr Epstein explains that the book is intended for general practitioners, specialists other than dermatologists, and medical students. Emphasis is placed on the commoner diseases and rare affections are only briefly noted.

The chief value of the book lies in its superbly reproduced colour plates, though many readers may feel that its value would have been still further enhanced if the illustrations of such common conditions as freckles, impetigo, carbuncle and varicose ulcer had been omitted and their place taken by illustrations of less commonly occurring diseases.

Although Dr Peter A. J. Smith of the dermatology department, the London Hospital, has supplied information about medication used in Britain, the British reader will derive little help from the prescriptions given in the sections dealing with treatment, for many are available only in the United States, and the use of trade names adds to the confusion.

In view of the transatlantic approach to treatment and the high