Reviews

Mental Subnormality. By W. A. HEATON-WARD. John Wright & Sons, Ltd., Bristol.

This little book gives a brief account of the causes and degrees of mental subnormality, with a short section on the developing child, mental tests, mental illness in the mentally subnormal, epilepsy and community and hospital care. The relevant provisions of the Mental Health Act are outlined.

The choice of the terms "primary amentia" and "secondary amentia" is unfortunate, as this terminology is outmoded, and a phrase such as "simple undifferentiated amentia" should not be used in 1960.

The section on Hospital training is also somewhat old-fashioned, mentioning domestic work and residential domestic posts for females and farm training schemes for males. There is no reference to the rapidly-growing facilities in hospitals for training in light industrial work, subcontracted from factories, such as making cake-boxes, assembling radio parts, toy making and scores of other jobs of a simple repetitive type for which there is wide scope for subsequent employment in the community.

The book may be of some value to those requiring a quick orientation in this field.

B. W. RICHARDS.

The Integrity of the Personality. By ANTHONY STORR. Heinemann, London, 1960. Pp. 174. Price 15*s*.

The author of this short and intriguing book is a consultant psychiatrist and analytical psychotherapist of the Jungian school. His aim is to define in simple terms the basic assumptions upon which his practice of psychiatry and psychotherapy rests. In this he has succeeded, and the personal and subjective quality of his writing combined with the clarity of his formulations make this a refreshing and readable document, the more so because it concerns an area where "scientific" and "objective" are still too frequently equated. Dr. Storr hopes that his book may contribute towards understanding of the psychotherapeutic relationship; in the sense that he has conveyed vividly and sympathetically some important principles about the dynamics of the psychotherapeutic process and the meaning of psychotherapy within the framework of Jung's idea of "individuation", his hope is justified. There must be few books that have both the width of perspective and the grounding in clinical practice.

Despite this, its appeal is likely to be extensive, rather than intensive. This does not mean that it is superficial, but rather that the width of the perspective that the author has chosen precludes any serious examination of the sort of problems that occupy psychotherapists and are of the most interest from the point of view of research and future understanding. Thus, practising analysts are likely to be disappointed by a statement such as ". . . the degree of recovery which takes place in the patient is proportional to the degree of maturity of the relationship which he is enabled to make with the therapist". From the point of view of the patient at the end of a successful analysis this is important and true, but many analysts would claim that the really interesting and important changes which can occur are those which seem to be proportional to the degree of immaturity of the relationship that the patient is able to make with the therapist.

The author, however, is well aware of the importance of the therapeutic regression as a "reculer pour mieux sauter", and the real problem is the level of the audience to which the book is addressed. The informed layman should find it outstanding, but might have a little trouble in negotiating some of the technical aspects of projective identification. Psychiatrists may value it most for the clear way in which Jung's

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