treat them as confidential, the desire to guard the secret will overcome the natural inclination to speak of it to others.

A chapter is devoted to specific diseases, to the means of infection and their results.

The book, which deals with a difficult subject, is full of valuable information and is written in a simple manner. It is one which should be in the hands of all parents and guardians of young people.

Advanced Suggestion (*Neuro-induction*). By HAYDN BROWN, L.R.C.P. Edin. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1918. Pp. 342.

That suggestion is a valuable method of treatment which is not made use of in as many cases as it should be is slowly being recognised. This seems to be borne out by the very large number of books on the subject which have appeared recently.

The "technique" which Haydn Brown employs, but which is not described, is referred to as being of a simple character.

Hypnotic suggestion is not recommended because the will-power of the patient is merely in a state of obedience, while by neuro-induction the will-power is steadily increased. The author states that the best results are obtained only with the co-operation of the patient in this method of treatment. He maintains that the sexual factor in mental disorders is not nearly so important as Freud believes, and he advises that the word, association test should not be adopted in the diagnosis or treatment of these conditions.

Reference is made to a very large number of clinical cases treated by Haydn Brown. In many of them excellent results would be expected, but there are others, both medical and surgical, in which the cures must be considered remarkable.

It is unfortunate that so many new terms are introduced into the book as they tend to lead to confusion. The omission of a description of the technique employed considerably detracts from the value of the book as a practical guide to treatment. Curiously works of this nature frequently suffer from this defect.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Psychopathology.

Shakespeare's "Othello" as a Study of the Morbid Psychology of Sex. (*Nineteenth Century, June*, 1919.) *Sullivan, W. C.*

Othello has usually been viewed as a tragedy of heroic love rather than as a tragedy of insane passion, which the writer contends is probably the correct interpretation. Definite indications are afforded in the play of the pathological temperament of Othello, and it is suggested that Iago, who is depicted by Shakespeare as inhumanly

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wicked and supreme in evil, is used in the play as the dramatic representation of morbid passion. He is not an actual human personage, but he represents the projection of the insane thoughts and impulses of Othello; he is the dramatic device for showing the growth of diseased passion in the mind. The gross sexual imagery in the speeches of Iago are those which express the condition of a jealous lunatic. Just as Hamlet's hatred is crystallised by the confirming voice of the Ghost, and the subconscious stirring of ambitions in the soul of Macbeth are dramatically presented in the prophecies of the witches, so the growth of morbid jealousy in Othello expresses itself in gross sexual thoughts of hallucinatory intensity projected into the inhuman figure of Iago.

H. DEVINE.

2. Clinical Psychiatry.

General Paralysis among the Jews [*Die Paralyse der Juden in Sexuologischer Beleuchtung*]. (*Zt. f. Sexualwiss., June*, 1919.) *Sichel, M.*

Until recent times general paralysis has been rare among Jews. Then it rapidly increased until it affected a fifth of the Jewish inmates of asylums. In the last decade this proportion has slightly fallen, but the fall appears to be apparent rather than real, as Sichel here explains.

What are the causes of this sudden development of general paralysis among Jews? Zollschen believes that syphilis works more virulently on Jews because they were previously so free from it. Sichel finds difficulties in this explanation, and attaches more importance to the growth of large cities and the confinement of Jews in such cities, with the manifold opportunities for sexual excesses thus opened to them. In nearly all large cities there is a special prevalence of general paralysis among Jews as compared with the general population. Sichel quotes figures for Vienna, London, and Frankfort. In rural districts, on the other hand, general paralysis is extremely rare among Jews. The spread of the disease is evidently dependent on urban life, and it is suggested that the results of the war, which have led to the cry of "Back to the plough!" even among Jews, will in this respect be beneficial.

The author remarks that his thesis concerning the connection between the Jewish attraction to urban life and the special prevalence of general paralysis may seem to be shaken by what is witnessed in Russia. There the Jews are exclusively town-dwellers, for they had not been allowed to be anything else, yet general paralysis is very rare amongst them. This Sichel attributes to the thorough manner in which the eastern Jews still exercise their traditional rites and customs. The unfavourable political conditions which have led to their doing this have been one of those forces which "willed evil and produced good." The eastern Jews have been enabled to retain their vital energy uncontaminated, and as we pass from east to west we find an ever-decreasing neglect of traditional observances, and, concomitantly, an ever-increasing prevalence of general paralysis.

This result has, however, been powerfully aided by the custom of early marriage among the eastern Jews—a custom which has decayed in

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