

BOOK REVIEWS.

MILITARY PSYCHIATRY IN PEACE AND WAR. By S. Stanford Read, M.D., Physician Fisherton House Hospital, Salisbury, 168 pages; two charts. Price 10/6 net. Publishers: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., 136 Gower St., London, W.C. 1.

Dr. Read, who had an opportunity to observe most of the mental cases which occurred in the British Army, discusses in an excellent manner the different aspects of psychiatry in peace and war. Dr. Read was in charge of "D" Block, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, through which all the mental cases from France and England were sent before being definitely placed in the various mental hospitals in England. He discusses the psychology of the soldier before and after enlistment, and shows how the cause of practically all cases of psychosis are due to a psychopathic make-up with contributing causes, such as alcohol, fatigue, worry and anxiety. His belief is that the main bulk of the psychoses are psychogenic in origin. Apart from the acute intoxications and those chronic states induced by many years of excessive imbibing, thereby producing a demential condition, he regards alcohol as only a contributory factor, working with and aiding mental conflict. He considers that mental conflict is the most important etiological factor in the production of the war psychoses. He divides the different psychoses into ten classes—dementia praecox, paranoid states, confusional states, manic depressive insanity and simple depressed states, mental deficiency, general paresis, alcoholic psychoses, epilepsy and epileptic psychoses, psychoses with organic brain disease and acute infective disease, psychoneurotic disorders. He discusses all the conditions from the etiological standpoint, course of the disease and treatment, quoting many German, French, American and Canadian authors. He concludes with a discussion of how the recruiting of the civilian population for the army might have been improved with the present day position of British psychiatry. He lays emphasis upon the fact that our medical students must be more thoroughly trained along the lines of neurology and psychiatry in the future, and that there must be more out-patient and in-patient institutions for the advice and treatment of psychopathic disorders which are not psychotic or certifiable. He points out the importance which social service must take in the treatment of all forms of mental abnormality.