

between and adjustment of these qualities which result in homosexuality and many other abnormalities and neuroses.

The book errs in stressing the great difference between the invert and the normal. It is not an inherent difference but one of development and experience.

Bearing this criticism in mind the reader will find much of interest and value here.

DORIS LAYARD.

PSYCHOLOGY AND MENTAL HEALTH. C. W. Valentine. (Methuen; 4s.)

A recent BLACKFRIARS criticism of rehashes into book form of broadcast talks (March 1949, page 140) could readily embrace this 'brief introduction of medical psychology based upon five broadcasts printed largely as given'. To the listening public the author may have driven home successfully his salient points: for the more leisured reading public, however, the adapted book comes as an unbalanced and inadequate exposition.

In it a number of abnormal mental processes and modes of therapy are arbitrarily, as it seems, juxtaposed. Thus, at the end of chapter 2, on emotional and environmental strain, a number of superficial means to circumstantial adjustment is appended, including, curiously, a paragraph upon the efficacy of religion 'whether true or not'. Again, in chapter 3, four pages are devoted to the discussion of 'irritability', better relegated to the later chapter on emotions: while 'complexes', one of the headings of the chapter, receive the barest mention.

Even in so short a book balance demands some treatment of the principles underlying the various modes of dissociation and the group of obsessive-compulsive phenomena; and a whole chapter devoted to hypnosis, suggestion and auto-suggestion gives undue prominence to these relatively less-used methods of psychological influence, particularly when commoner methods are passed by.

Nevertheless, Prof. Valentine makes a number of wise remarks, interspersed with apposite poetical quotations. A short but useful bibliography and an excellent index are appended.

S. J. G. SPENCER.

FATHER OF THE MAN. By Sir Ernest Barker. (National Council of Social Service; 5s.)

PLOUGHMAN'S WISDOM. By Norman Carew. (Faber; 15s.)

WEST COUNTRY SHORT STORIES. Chosen by Lewis Wilshire. (Faber; 12s.6d.)

Education and ploughing may usefully be considered together, as both are human arts with particular lessons to impart to those who would see the many conflicting facets of country life blossom out in the full neighbourliness of communal living. Education is now in transition, and perhaps plans that are aimed at the adult will lead