

REVIEWS

materialist is indeed true, and in so far as it **is**, this is its great defect, since it has invaded a sphere in which sound ethics and the spiritual values of religion are required. Father Murphy is at pains to expound the Pauline solution, for such **is** the main thesis of this book. The intention is good, and there is much wisdom in its pages.

We are far from believing that psychology can give the complete answer, or clear up all conflicts, but that it can help, and often more effectively than 'religion,' cannot be denied, though we cannot stay to show why, except that 'religion' has so little meaning now, for those who turn principally to psychology for enlightenment. Were the author more accurate in his presentation of the claims of psychology, the book would have gained in value. The new psychology is not adequately represented by that **school** which Fr. Murphy mainly attacks, namely the radical behaviourism of Professor Watson. Had he brought in Freud, and others of that way of thinking, he could have made out a better case.

What is urgently needed to-day is co-operation between psychology and religion, for each in its field has something to offer, each can give assistance to souls tormented in ways they cannot always of themselves prevent. Just as we may turn to medicine for physical remedies, so too we may turn to psychology for spiritual remedies in the natural order, and, thus by removing obstacles open the way for grace.

G.A.E.

PRACTICAL PSYCHOLOGY. By Rudolf Allers, adapted by Vera Barclay. (Sheed & Ward; 4/6.)

Dr. Strauss' translation of Rudolf Allers' *Psychology of Character* first appeared about three years ago. To the casual reader it appeared to be just another technical book on experimental psychology. Its language bears traces at least of the jargon which we associate with scientific treatises: there are places where a technical term that is intelligible to the Greek scholar defrauds the ordinary reader of the meaning of a whole passage. There are small defects in the arrangement, and there are times when one wishes that the translator had taken greater liberties with the original. The book owes its undoubted success to its intrinsic worth, to its saneness and its searching analysis of motives, rather than to any superficial attractiveness of style or language.

What Miss Barclay modestly calls 'an abridged and re-arranged version' is little short of a complete metamorphosis. Except that they are shorn of technicalities, the words are Dr.

BLACKFRIARS

Allers' own, yet the **book now** has all the freshness and vitality of **Good Scouting**, and even some of its humour.

There is always a thrill in finding out the causes of familiar phenomena. That is the great value of this book. It gives some explanation of the principal manifestations, normal and abnormal, of childhood—the only child, the precocious child, the oldest and youngest child, the 'difficult' child, the reactions to school life, adolescence, and the various forces at work in the formation of character.

We recommend this book in its new form to all who have to deal with small children and children of school age.

G.A.

THE BREAKDOWN OF MONEY. An Historical Explanation. By Christopher Hollis. (Sheed & Ward; pp. 231; 4/6.)

This is certainly the best book on the subject which has yet been published in this country. Most text-books of Modern History are little less than a farce—in so far as their authors make little or no attempt to explain the real basic causes of political events. Vague phrases such as 'national prestige,' 'imperial expansion,' 'a place in the sun,' and 'the safeguarding of national interests' are not only useless but deceptive. This lack of intelligibility in the text-books is due to their complete neglect of monetary matters. They are in the main merely chronicles of political events.

Mr. Hollis's book is largely historical, that is, he sets out to give a straightforward historical account of the rise of the Money Power. 'I do not ask,' he says in the introduction, 'that the Schools should teach any private nostrums, whether my own or anybody else's. I only ask that they should teach facts, the truth and importance of which are alike admitted—the facts of what is our financial system and how it works.'

The rise to power of the Bank of England, the National Debt, Cobdenism with its free export of goods and capital, and results—Economic and Financial Imperialism are all clearly and vividly described. There are also four excellent chapters on India, the United States, post-war Germany and Spain. The chapter on Population is of especial value.

In discussing the remedy, Mr. Hollis is of course right in diagnosing a deficiency of purchasing power as being the root of the trouble, and both he and Mr. Gill—whom he quotes—are entirely justified in their dislike of a new 'economic man' who is to be solely a consumer, with perhaps a few dilettante artistic hobbies. He appears, however, to confuse the Douglas Credit theory with the private philosophies of some of its supporters. Actually Social Credit is simply a piece of mechanism