

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

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was pushed into the background, where he has been ever since. His present book is rather disappointing. The first 250 pages of Volume I, dealing with his career before the World War, are very readable because of their purely biographical interest, though there is little discussion in them of the fundamental economic and political movements of pre-war Germany. The remainder of Volume I and the whole of Volume II deal with the history of the country through the war to the establishment of the Ebert government. There is little in them that is not known to every newspaper reader. There are seventeen illustrations, and an index at the end of Volume II. The translation is by J. E. Michell.

THE SCIENCES

THE SCIENCE OF LIVING.

By Alfred Adler.

\$3.50

8¼ x 5½; 264 pp.

Greenberg

New York

Dr. Adler, professor of psychology at the Institute of Vienna, is the generalissimo of all the armies of individual psychologists. He is, in fact, the founder of the new science, which "begins and ends with the problem of inferiority," and which, in turn, is "the basis for all our problems of psychological maladjustment." In the present book he considers such matters as old remembrances, the hated and petted child and what they usually end up as in later years, female biological envy, male biological envy, the varieties of dreams, and the place of sex in the normally integrated life. What he says about all these problems is not especially profound. His remarks, indeed, are so superficial that the followers of Freud or of Jung or of Ferenczi will find nothing to disagree with. He does not grapple with fundamentals, and is plainly addressing people with almost no previous knowledge of psychopathology. For a foreword there is a thirty-page essay by M. Phillipe Mairet on Dr. Adler and his work, in which he says of the doctor that "if the Occidental world is not too far gone to make use of his service he may well come to be known as the Confucius of the West." There is no bibliography or index.

PETROLEUM & COAL. *The Keys to the Future.*

By W. T. Thom, Jr. The Princeton University Press

\$2.50

8¾ x 5½; 223 pp.

Princeton

Dr. Thom, who is associate professor of geology at Princeton, discusses the origin, composition and classification of coal and oil; their various uses and geographic occurrence; and the conditions and probable futures of the two industries. He does not deal with the labor problems involved. As for the future he says this: "With unrestricted trade, the world situation

as regards coal warrants thrift but no fear of shortage, and the petroleum situation is such that if research be adequately supported, and if sane and just policies be pursued, civilization may earn its way as it goes, in so far as oil supplies are concerned, for very many years to come." There are many illustrations and a bibliography.

LET'S BE NORMAL.

By Fritz Kunkel.

\$3

8¼ x 5½; 299 pp.

Ives Washburn

New York

Dr. Kunkel, one of the leading German psychologists of the Adlerian school, has here written a popular discussion of some of the more common psychic disturbances, such as egocentricity, irritability, excessive sociability, the abnormal desire for solitude, miserliness, and the various sex fears. As an individual psychologist, he tries to explain almost everything in terms of infantile inferiority or superiority, but in the present book at least he is not fanatic about it. Toward the end are four interesting case histories. There is a brief bibliography, and also an index. The translation is by Eleanore Jensen.

ESSAYS

FRED NEWTON SCOTT PAPERS.

The University of Chicago Press

\$5

9½ x 6¼; 319 pp.

Chicago

Dr. Scott was professor of English literature at the University of Chicago from 1888 to 1926, when he retired. The present book, made up of fourteen papers by former students of his, was recently presented to him "in celebration of his . . . distinguished service" in the university. Dr. Scott probably felt greatly honored, because the essays are in line with his own notions of what literary criticism should be, but viewed coldly they make very sad reading. They are all badly written and deal with matters that are not worth writing about. Dr. George Bion Denton, "professor of technical writing" at Northwestern University, is concerned with "the facts explaining the discrepancy between the treatment in the first fifty-seven paragraphs of [Spencer's] 'Philosophy of Style' and that in the last paragraph." Dr. Ernest Sutherland Bates, associate editor of the Dictionary of National Biography, deals with the juvenile works of Shelley, which he admits were bad. Dr. Charles C. Fries, professor of English at the University of Michigan, lets the world know that there are "practically no cases in which the English translators of the 1611 Bible use the descriptive attributive adjective from choice." And so on. At the end there is a bibliography of Dr. Scott's works.

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THE AMERICAN MERCURY

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