

Biological Aspects of Infectious Disease

By Dr. F. M. Burnet. Pp. xi+310. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1940.) 15s. net.

THE aim of this thoughtful, but by no means readable, work by the assistant director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Melbourne is, as we learn from the preface, to discuss the subject of infectious disease from the point of view of the biologist rather than that of the medical practitioner.

The book is divided into six parts. In the first, which is devoted to biological considerations, the ecological point of view and the evolution of infection and defence are discussed. The second part deals with "Aggressors", by which bacilli, protozoa and viruses are to be understood. In the third part the processes of defence, that is, the various aspects of immunity, are considered. The natural history of infectious disease, which includes the mode of transfer of infection, the general character of epidemics, and prevalence of infectious disease, the age incidence of infectious disease, and the general principles of their control, form the subject of the fourth part. In the fifth part certain important infectious diseases, namely, diphtheria, influenza, tuberculosis, plague, cholera and malaria receive attention. The epilogue, which forms the sixth part, contains a brief account of certain new diseases and a somewhat vague outlook for the future. It is to be regretted that the book, of which, according to the preface, the manuscript was finished by 1938, was not brought up to date "owing to the circumstances of the present time", and that there is no bibliography and only a scanty index.

Mythology of the Soul:

a Research into the Unconscious from Schizophrenic Dreams and Drawings. By H. G. Baynes. Pp. xii+939+42 plates. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1940.) 32s. 6d.

DESPITE its sub-heading, the title of this volume is somewhat ambiguous. It might mean mythology about the soul, or mythology that is created by the soul. This is unfortunate; for a book is not seldom judged by its title. One has, however, only to open it and read through a few pages to see what its author means. Dr. Baynes is occupied with the kind of phantasy that occurs when "before the human mind had ever set itself to the labour of thought, the myth already flowed like a natural fountain out of the unconscious". These are the opening words of his introduction, and they strike the key-note of what follows.

Since Dr. Baynes is an enthusiastic follower of Jung, who broke away from the school of Sigmund Freud some time before 1914, we should expect much use to be made of the concept of the activation, in pathological conditions, of archaic contents of the "collective unconscious"; and so we do. Apart from copious quotations, particularly from the works of Jung, and a large and varied range of mythological erudition, the book consists of an account of the psycho-analytical investigation of two cases only, and is illustrated by drawings, some of them coloured, of

their dreams and phantasies. In this respect it reminds one of a work by G. R. Heyer ("The Organism of the Mind") published in its English form in 1933. Dr. Baynes writes with approval of Jung's "psychological types", that is, the distinction made by him between the "introvert" and the "extrovert", later expanded by Jung himself into varieties and cross classifications of these two basic divisions. But the whole question of "types" is at present under discussion, and has encountered violent criticism.

We have this idea cropping up in one form or another since the classifications into "temperamental types" by Hippocrates and Galen, down to the "psychological types" of Jung himself, Jaensch, Dilthey, Spranger, Klages, Gross and Kretschmer, to mention only some. But these are due to clinical observation; not all their authors are agreed in respect of the "types"; and no adequate statistical procedures have been applied (as they have in other branches of psychology) in order to establish them and verify them. This manner of treatment may suffice for the arts of medicine and psychotherapy; but it is not scientific. For the rest, Dr. Baynes's "Mythology of the Soul" makes interesting and picturesque reading, interspersed as it is with similes, metaphors, and (though sometimes rather far-fetched) analogical arguments.

Philips' Chart of the Stars

Edited by E. O. Tancock. 46 in. x 36 in. (London: George Philip and Son, Ltd., 1940.) 3s. net.

IN this chart the whole sky is shown on a large sheet in three sections—one equatorial, Mercator projection, and two polar maps. The stars, which are graded in size according to magnitude, including the fifth, are shown as white circles on a blue background. The chart also contains a number of the more important clusters, nebulae and variable stars, visible to the naked eye, or in field-glasses or small telescopes, and tables supply useful information on these. Many notes are added which explain the movements of the sun, moon and stars, and also clarify certain phenomena which are illustrated in the chart. Students will find this a useful guide to the heavens.

Electrolytic Condensers

Their Properties, Design, and Practical Uses. By Philip R. Coursey. Second edition, revised. Pp. xii+190+8 plates. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1939.) 10s. 6d. net.

THE fact that a second edition of this book had to be prepared after a relatively short time indicates its usefulness. The new edition has been slightly enlarged, the additions being distributed more or less evenly throughout the book with an emphasis on the last chapter dealing with the applications of electrolytic condensers. The preferential treatment of this chapter (increased in length by 25 per cent), especially the information given on surge-proof condensers, will be welcomed by all users of this type of condenser.