careful to point out how the whole subject, including its delinquency aspects, is as yet only in its infancy, and that we must have many therapeutic failures before the subject is on a really sound and successful foundation. The treatment of the difficult child is applied from so many angles that there is unlimited scope for extension, but a word of warning appears necessary, for much time and money may be spent on therapeutic measures which appeal very strongly to the lay mind but may have little scientific basis or therapeutic value.

G. W. T. H. Fleming.


This monograph is based on the study of 1,087 cases of schizophrenia during a period of ten years. The subject of predisposition to tuberculosis and schizophrenia based on inherited inadequacy of certain tissues is discussed. Although the total fertility of the group was much below that of the general population, it was not low enough to lead to self-elimination. The hebephrenics and catatonics average only a little more than one child per person, while the paranoid group are almost up to the normal average, i.e. 4.6 per marriage. The author thinks that the practical effect of sterilization is so unsatisfactory that its general application does not seem to be advisable. Schizophrenia is an organic disease based on a specific predisposition which follows the recessive course of heredity and is therefore transmitted to all the children of schizophrenics.

We heartily support the writer’s opinion that special attention should be directed towards borderline cases and the mild types of schizophrenia.

He points out that the ratio of frequency between the siblings and children of schizophrenics and again between the grandchildren and children is exactly the same for the expectancy of schizophrenia and for the mortality from tuberculosis. The primary and decisive hereditary factor in the genesis of schizophrenia and tuberculosis is neither a similarity in the physical structure nor some toxic-endocrine disturbance, but is presumably an hereditary inadequacy of certain tissues. The author considers that the most probable solution is an hereditary functional weakness of the reticulo-endothelial system.

G. W. T. H. Fleming.


This is an account of the life and work of Elmer Ernest Southard, who is best known to us in this country as a very sound pathologist with a fine knowledge of psychology. He died in 1920 at the early age of 43.

The writer compares him with Sir Wm. Osler without his suffering greatly by comparison with a very great man. He knew him as a friend and writes sympathetically of his work with social science. Southard was a philosopher, and viewed his work in psychiatry and neuropathology from a philosophical angle. The philosophical tendency was apparent in his letters when he was only twenty years of age. There is a macabre tone to the book which rather spoils it. We read: “The convolutions of Elmer E. Southard’s brain are well rounded, with the possible exception of the left first temporal.” Without being sentimental we think we might have been spared this, but perhaps this viewpoint is merely a British one.

G. W. T. H. Fleming.