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BOOK REVIEW

Ministering to the Mind

THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS. *By Dom Thomas Verner Moore, O.S.B., Ph.D., M.D.* Grune and Stratton. \$4

This book evidences the high type of work being accomplished at the Mental Clinic of the Catholic University of America and is a tribute to the eminently practical equipment of the author for his task. This last appears in the accuracy with which he characterizes each psychiatric problem and in the appropriate case histories which illustrate every phase of the work.

After a discussion and definition of mental disorder, Dom Moore evaluates the various systems in vogue in present-day psychiatry. The fundamentals of Freudianism, especially the etiology of psychoneurotic disorders and infantile sexuality, are appraised, their merits recognized and their inadequacies brought into relief. The same objective treatment is accorded the theories of other analytical psychiatrists, as those of C. J. Jung, Alfred Adler and Franz Alexander. There follow two masterly chapters on Therapy by Psychological Analysis, in which the author studies and exemplifies the free-association method and dream-analysis. The book is

by no means a mere schematic analysis of systems or critique of theories. Dom Moore has indeed profited by his acquaintance with a wide variety of systems and theories, but his own wide clinical experience has qualified him to elaborate new techniques in dealing with mental disorder.

In a foreword to the volume, Dr. Edward A. Strecker, of the University of Pennsylvania, writes: "Dr. Moore's book will be helpful to the psychiatric clinician irrespective of his particular psychiatric beliefs; to physicians and to medical students, to psychiatric nurses and social workers." We might add that priests will draw profit from the study of this book. Not only will they be warned of false concepts, but such very practical chapters as those on family problems and their treatment, therapy through family reorganization, will provide positive guidance and direction. Another most helpful chapter deals with the origin and course of common fears.

The fourth part of the book is concerned with organically caused emotions and the pharmacological treatments at present indicated. A classified résumé of clinical entities enhances the value of the book.—Alberto Duque. [Reprinted from *America*.]