

The student contribution is interesting, in showing how acutely the younger generation appreciates the problem. Running through all these commentaries is a note of pessimism. Most feel that world government is the only solution, that atomic weapons must either be outlawed or carefully controlled by a central authority.

One of these essays contains a particularly valuable idea. Miss Helga Wolpert (a London University student) puts forward a thesis which, on developing, reads like this. (1) There have been many equally fundamental technical advances before: the steam-engine, electricity (particularly from water power), etc.; (2) In every case such achievements have been used only for the benefit of a few, comparatively speaking, and have never been developed as much as they might have been; (3) It would hence be more sensible to cease development of atomic power and to concentrate industrial scientific effort on these earlier methods of producing and utilising power, so that all may benefit. It is quite certain that we have, in fact, neglected earlier methods and our economists might well consider this.

Bertrand Russell contributes a well-reasoned talk, discussing the problems of international control—also dealt with by Sir George Thomson—and the alternative to control, that the atomic ‘secret’ should be held by one strong nation. But the increasing realisation that it is, in fact, no longer a secret detracts considerably from any theories based on the idea that it is.

Finally it must be added that this volume suffers acutely from an evil common to all collections of radio talks and is extremely disconnected, hence difficult to read.

P. W. ALLEN

THE PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL APPROACH TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. By Kate Friedlander. (Kegan Paul; 18s.)

This work falls into two distinct parts: the first setting out the theory behind the psycho-analytical approach to juvenile delinquency and the second giving case histories and their treatment and subsequent development. The book as a whole is an excellent example of the merciful difference which exists between theory and practice.

Those who can read the crude statement of the Freudian interpretation of life contained in the first section will be amply rewarded by the studies of individual children, in family situations that are all too familiar, in the second part. There is a way, however, in which the theory can be more easily read and tolerated, and that is to regard its statement as being itself symbolic: to see the growth and development of the child, which is stated in terms of attitude towards parents and brothers and sisters, as being the inner experience of a being seeking its fulfilment in a social group.

If the reader can obtain this degree of detachment, which calls for the further interpretation of every statement, there is still a grave criticism which it is more difficult to surmount. The picture as por-

trayed is of a child with certain instinctive characteristics finding itself in a totally hostile environment. This is not specifically in reference to the distressing cases which are treated with skill and sympathetic understanding in the latter half of the book. It refers to the experience of all human beings and it is on this evidence presumably that the theory of human motive and behaviour is based. The impression which is received is of an external rigid man-made institution being clamped on to the resisting 'natural' instinctive life of the child.

The theory while claiming to be based on sound biological data entirely fails to give value to or recognition of the inherent drive towards transformation and social adaptation which lies in the instinctive life itself. The picture of the child torn on the one hand by the love of its parents as the source of its well-being, and on the other by the hate of the power and authority that they wield, leaves no place for the mediating principle in the child itself, which can make such a tension creative.

No one reading this book can fail to be impressed by the importance it attaches to family life and this in itself is valuable at a time when the family unit is assailed on all sides.

Although it is feared that the reader may feel a sense of frustration, he will find a good many shrewd and penetrating observations on such matters as the attitude of society (of which he is a member with personal responsibility) towards the treatment of delinquents. Dr Friedlander also has some important things to say about the character of neurosis as distinct from delinquency, although frequently found with it, and the necessity for correct diagnosis and treatment. Her book needs careful reading and repays the time that should be given to it.

DORIS LAYARD.

ART AND LETTERS

LES SANDALES D'EMPEDOCLE. By Claude-Edmonde Magny. (Editions de la Baconnière, Neuchâtel; n.p.)

This book starts a great number of critical hares that cannot be adequately followed up in a short review. Its ambitious function is to enquire into the uses of literature and criticism, and to fix limits to both. As the authoress says, 'Literary criticism seeks all possible alibis for not fulfilling its mission', and she is at pains to discount the ideal of 'scientific' criticism set up by Taine and the standardised attitudes it fostered, while at the same time calling for a 'partiality' that will take definite critical norms for granted while excluding the so-called personal 'heresy' and along with it the impressionism and subjectivism of the literary *causerie* that descends from Sainte-Beuve. Like the sandals that Empedocles left behind before disappearing into Etna, literature is a sign of man's wider life, it 'annexes new continents to human knowledge' in Gide's sense, and the writer is a prospector in the world of experience: for that reason