

BOOK REVIEW

PSYCHOLOGY AND POLITICS; AND CONFLICT AND DREAM. Two volumes. By *W. H. R. Rivers, LL.D., F.R.S.* New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

These two volumes appear simultaneously in The International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method, and are in effect a memorial to their author, who died suddenly in July, 1922. The manuscript for the volume on Dreams had been revised by him and was nearly ready for the press. The volume on Politics existed in the form of lectures, six in number, the book taking its title from the leading lecture. This address grew out of his candidacy for the House of Commons in the early part of 1922. He was a professor at Cambridge, and had won distinction in surgery, as well as psychology. During the war, he was at the military hospital at Maghull, and there gathered no small part of the material for his book on Dreams. This experience led him to the investigation of his own dreams, and these he discusses with pleasing frankness.

In the matter of Dreams, he is in fundamental agreement with Freud, so far as admitting that dreams have a serious meaning and a bearing upon practical life: he does not agree, however, that a dream is always the expression of a wish. All in all, his work is a corrective of some of the extravagances of the followers of Freud. It is sane, frank and non-technical.

The volume on Politics is really the gathering into one book of six lectures on various educational, political and philosophical subjects. Whether the author would have unified them we may not know; the editors have not attempted to do so. There is a preface by G. Elliott Smith, and a biographical sketch by C. S. Myers, which together give us pleasant and informing knowledge of the personality of Dr. Rivers, whose death is a loss to international scholarship.