Ronhaar, J. H. Woman in Primitive Motherright Societies. [J. B. Wolters, Groningen, The Hague, Holland. $3.60.]

This ethnological volume of some 540 full octavo pages is unique in many ways. In the first place the author does not believe in the popularization of scientific work. Hence the form which gives the work more of a reference character than one for an evening's reading. The method is different. It is inductive. He takes up a problem such as, let us say, prostitution among primitive peoples, or abortion, in fact, every aspect of the life of primitive societies, and then collects about the question all of the available facts from the abundant literature. He thus presents all of the available evidence, shows up the conflicting opinions, and brings orderly and reliable information in sharp contrast to much sentimental slush that passes for ethnology.

Bachofen, dear to the romantic era of ethnology, is not given much quarter, and other romantic ethnologists do not fare much better.

If one wishes to really know about the much expounded "Matriarchate" type of society one will here find plenty of evidence. Not all, for the problem is much too complex to be dealt with in any 500-page book, but there is enough here to cause the serious student to desire to look up the numerous authors whose statements are categorically analyzed and placed side by side with their variants.

It is, as stated, a unique and valuable work.


We find this an extremely satisfying discussion of post-war conditions with reference to the mental life among the French. Both authors are psychiatrists in the regular service of the state. They have written not too large, nor too small a work. They ask and answer a number of issues. Such as: Has mental disease increased in Paris since the war? Have any new psychopathic forms evolved? Are the symptom pictures of the psychotic any different? Has the grand social delusion of 1914-1918 brought about any marked alteration in the evolution of the psychoses in the capital of France during the decade that has followed this enormous folly?

They pursue the inquiries with relentless attention to the actual facts and figures. The hospital records, the admissions, clinical histories, follow-ups, are all here heavily documented and intelligently interpreted.

To get an answer to these various questions one has to turn to this very well conceived and as equally executed volume. It is a real contribution and can be cordially recommended.

Weiss, Edoardo. Elementi di Psicoanalisi. [Ulrico Hoepli, Milano.]

Apart from Morselli's large two-volume work on psychoanalysis, a highly ambivalent production, and Levi Bianchini's "Archivio Generale," an active magazine devoted to neurology, psychiatry, and