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### Schizophrenia

The author of this book, while now connected with the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital, was formerly with the Herzberge Hospital in Berlin. While there he made an intensive study of the schizophrenic cases admitted to the hospital during its first ten years of existence. These comprise 1087 proband cases, diagnosed and proved to be schizophrenics beyond the possibility of doubt. In addition there were carefully studied 3279 husbands, wives and parents of these probands, 3384 direct descendants, 3920 siblings and 2194 nephews and nieces. These individuals were as far as possible personally interviewed. The interviews were supplemented by the extensive registry and police records. The results have been embodied in the present book.

Believing that the demonstration of a genetic basis for schizophrenia would not result in a fatalistic nihilism towards clinical therapy and prophylaxis, but rather would put therapeutic procedure on a sound biological basis, the author made a careful genetic survey of his material. He concludes that schizophrenia is dependent upon a recessive factor, with a penetrance of about 70%. The eugenic and clinical implications of these findings are discussed at considerable length. He also concludes that there is a genetic relationship between the tendency to schizophrenia and the heredito-constitutional susceptibility to tuberculous infection, and he further suggests that the common basis for these two predispositions lies in a hereditary functional weakness of the reticulo-endothelial system. Seventy-six tables and many detailed case records make up the body of the book. A glossary and a bibliography are appended.—*L. H. S.*

**The Genetics of Schizophrenia**, by F. J. Kallman. xvi + 291 pp. New York, J. J. Augustin, 1938. \$5.00.

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### Worm's-eye Viewpoint of Life

This is a simple, straightforward, very informal account of the phenomena of life, told by a biologist renowned for his penetrating researches into heredity and sex-determination. The worm *Ascaris* provides the theme of the story, but only the theme, there being many delightful side-excursions into other regions of the animal world and into the author's personal reminiscences. Almost the book could be recommended as a text. At any rate it should be required reading for all students of zoology. It provides a fresh viewpoint and a personal approach which might well be incorporated into text books.—*L. H. S.*

**Ascaris: the Biologist's Story of Life**, by Richard Goldschmidt. ix + 390 pp. New York, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1937. \$3.25.