With so many authors covering so wide a field the standard and style are bound to vary, but the average level is very satisfactory.


This is a new edition of a well-known book which, when first published 40 years ago, must have been thoroughly up to date. Many chapters are still most helpful to the student, and there is an excellent account of many aspects of the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the visual apparatus. From the neurologist's point of view, however, the book is disappointing. The recent work on supra-calcine visual disorders is entirely ignored and indeed the important studies of Morris Bender (New York) and of Eberhard Bay (Heidelberg) are not even mentioned.

The illustrations of retinal disorders and of disturbance of ocular movements are few and are technically below present-day standards. Many well-known conditions, such as myasthenia gravis, traumatic lesions of the optic chiasma, wounds of the calcine area, aneurysms of the cerebral arteries, central ocular palsy, in pliciomyelitis, muscular dystrophy affecting the ocular muscles, and hysterical disorders of vision and eye movements are inadequately considered.


The sub-title of this work might be translated as "Organization and Disorganization of the Personality from the Psychological, Paedagogical, Sociological, and Psychiatric Viewpoint". The theme of the study is "Besinnung," which may be literally translated as reflexion or deliberation, but is given a special meaning by the author. It is, in his conception, a superior psychic function, a state of self-reflexion, contemplation, and detachment all in one. This state, in which the personality takes account of itself, recollects and integrates past life, and formulates values for the future, is liable to interference from various sides. It is not attempted, for instance, by the unstable or the callous psychopath; it is disturbed or distorted in schizophrenia; and it is impossible of attainment in the case of some structural lesions of the brain, such as frontal tumour. The author believes that "Besinnung" is an important factor in the normal development of the child and adolescent. He criticizes modern mechanistic philosophies which neglect the value of contemplation and self-reflexion.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Book reviews were recently received.)


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Symposium Neuroradiologicum

The fourth Symposium Neuroradiologicum will be held in London from September 13 to 17, 1955. Radiologists, neurosurgeons, neurologists, and others interested will be most welcome. All wishing to contribute papers are invited to communicate as soon as possible with the Honorary Secretary, Dr. R. D. Hoare, at the National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C.1.

Sixth Latin-American Neurosurgical Congress

The sixth Latin-American Neurosurgical Congress (Secretary-General Dr. R. Arana-Iniguez, Convencion 1287, Montevideo) will be held in Montevideo from March 21 to 24, 1955, together with the 2nd South-American Electonecephalographical Congress (Secretary-General, Dr. P. Pinto Pupo, San Pablo, Brazil). Intending visitors should apply before October 1, 1954.