experiment illustrates what happens when water is made to circulate through a semi-permeable tube which again is surrounded by ink. The concentration of ink in the circulating water will depend on the velocity of the circulation. The rate of production and absorption of cerebrospinal fluid will have an important effect on the concentration of albumen and of lipoids in the fluid. This conception explains the composition of the liquor in various conditions and has lead the author to recognize such clinical states as liquorrhoea and aliquorrhaea. The latter produces intracranial hypotension and may in elderly subjects be the cause of the so-called haemorrhagic pachymenigitis. Liquorrhoea would express itself in a high pressure of cerebrospinal fluid which would be relatively poor in albumen and lipoids. The therapeutic importance of this view is stressed and some illustrative cases are described. (G. J.)

Deviations of Anterior Cerebral Artery.—The German school of neurosurgeons attaches supreme importance to the antero-posterior view in the evaluation of angiograms. In the present article the effects of local and remote pressure on the course of the anterior cerebral artery are analysed in detail. Remote pressure will produce a shift of the vertical portion (in the A.P. view) of the artery whilst the tethering of the vessel by its branches will give this portion a wavy outline. This happens particularly at the site of origin of the frontopolar artery giving rise to an angulation of the vessel, the so-called frontopolar sign. Another such angulation may be produced by the free margin of the falx, the "falx-sign." The effects of tumours in various situations are described and illustrated with very helpful diagrams. (G. J.)

BOOK REVIEWS

THE PITUITARY GLAND

From the Proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease

(Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore. 1938. 45s.)

In all 42 papers are presented which deal with the anatomy and physiology of the gland and certain clinical aspects associated with dysfunction of the gland. Medical men who are interested in this subject will find this book valuable, as the survey of the subject is a wide one. It is to be hoped that further volumes of this series may reach the public at an earlier date after the meeting at which the papers are presented. The lapse of 21 months between the presentation of a paper and its publication is a long one, and the acquisition of new knowledge during these months may render a paper out of date.

CAUSES OF CRIME

Arthur E. Fink

(Oxford University Press, Sir Humphrey Milford. 1938. 14s.)

Most of the best-known sources of information dealing with the etiology of crime and its associated problems are of European origin. The author has here presented an account of the American contributions to this subject, issued during the period 1800–1915. The resulting monograph is a very thoughtful and detailed presentation of the studies, prosecuted more especially along anatomical, psychological, and genetic channels. All students of criminology will value this work and appreciate the author's painstaking and meticulously documented compilation. Its sole drawbacks are to be found in the self-imposed limitations of the work.
BOOK REVIEWS

ÜBER SINN UND SINNLOSIGKEIT DES LEBENS (Sense and Senselessness of Life)

M. v. Andics

(Gerold & Co., Vienna. 1938)

This is a report on 100 cases of attempted suicide admitted to the Vienna Psychiatric Hospital. Experiences important for the development of the individual and especially for the motivation of the final catastrophe are pointed out statistically and in case reports. Environmental factors during childhood, health and disease, loneliness and friendship, financial and professional position, sex, marriage and family, form the background of the tragedy. These things, however, are known to the reader before he starts on the subject, and beyond their enumeration he will find very little which will help to solve this urgent social and ethical problem.

ZUR MEDIZINISCHEN PSYCHOLOGIE UND PHILOSOPHISCHEN ANTHROPOLOGIE (Medical Psychology and Philosophical Anthropology)

A. Gelb

(From the Acta Psychologica, 3, 2, 193. 1937)

The psychologist A. Gelb, known to neurological readers by his work in collaboration with Goldstein, gave these lectures in the University of Lund a short time before his death. He summarizes in a most impressive and brilliant way his results of psychological analyses of pathological cases such as aphasic and agnostic. Here one feels more than ever that though "neuronal" and schematic conceptions of focal disorders of the cortex are sufficient for practical diagnostic purposes, they are unsatisfying and misleading from the psychological point of view. To anyone who recognizes this discrepancy and yet distrusts hypotheses and mere conjecture, Gelb's lectures must be most valuable. He never leaves the basis of fact and observation, and opens new and interesting aspects to the reader accustomed to think in purely "organic" terms. A fundamental influence of Bergson's philosophy is distinctly recognizable. This does not diminish the impression of Gelb's great originality.

HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND ITS WORLD. A Study of Societies

K. W. Monserrat

(University Press, Liverpool. Hodder and Stoughton, London. 1937. 15s.)

The author of this ambitious philosophical work is a well-known Liverpool surgeon. Wide historical and scientific knowledge provides his sources: his method is somewhat reminiscent of that of Comte. The ground covered is so vast and the style so abstruse and difficult that a brief statement of his aim and conclusions is impossible. Man is viewed as an image-forming being and an organization of powers: the final argument deals with the relationship through science of sequences in the world—or, rather, in his image of the world—which manifest the interaction of energy-units or powers. The work, which includes many interesting reflections on neural activity, is thoughtful and learned.
BOOK REVIEWS

AN INTRODUCTION TO ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

V. E. Fisher
(Macmillan, New York. 1937. Revised Edition. 12s. 6d.)

This book shows very little familiarity with the clinical problem of mental abnormality: simple and sweeping psychological explanations are put forward with out-moded confidence, and the complexities and medical aspects of psychiatry are ignored. How misleading such a presentation can be is illustrated in the chapter on mental hygiene, where it is stated, à propos of "many of the insanities, epilepsy, psychopathic personality, often the more severe cases of psychoneurosis . . . criminality, indolence, sexual perversions, and prostitution," that "most of these conditions could be prevented through the proper management of the individual's development during the first eight or ten years of life." Statements of this kind are in keeping with the lack of definite evidence and proof which is often manifest in wholly psychological presentations of psychiatry. The present work is not, however, in the main extravagant; allowing for the limitation of its "eclectic" approach, it is consistent and well written.

AMERICAN MEDICINE: EXPERT TESTIMONY OUT OF COURT

(The American Foundation, New York. 1937. 2 Vols. $3.50 (16s.))

The service rendered by the American Foundation in reviewing the problems of medicine in the United States will be appreciated in other countries, such as Great Britain, where there are essentially the same issues, though on a smaller scale. The method employed has been to ask some 2,000 doctors, representative of the whole profession, to state whether they considered radical reorganization of medical care was called for, and on what lines; or, if they thought less drastic measures would suffice, what changes they would advocate. The replies have been sorted and arranged, with comment, in two bulky and most informative volumes, from which the reader can get an impartial view of the situation. Medicine, as a social activity, is surveyed in all its aspects: there are eleven chapters dealing with such topics as the education of doctors, group practice, specialization, the place of the hospital, state medicine, and health insurance. It is the very wide range of considered opinions on these lines that gives the survey its peculiar value. In the views incidentally expressed as to the place of psychiatry in medical training and practice there is the usual scale, with enthusiasm at one extreme and exasperation at the other, but most of the contributors who write on the matter are moderate, and well aware of the desirability of seeing that this subject, indubitably important and indisputably unsettled, becomes both more teachable and better taught.

THE EMOTIONAL FACTOR IN VISCERAL DISEASE

H. G. McGregor. With a foreword by R. D. Gillespie
(Oxford University Press, London. 1938. 8s. 6d.)

This book can be recommended to medical men as a good introduction to the study of the effects of psychological factors upon bodily functions. Numerous references are given for the reader who wishes to gain a better knowledge of the subject. The author gives a clear and concise account of a difficult subject. The chapter on the autonomic nervous system might have been expanded with profit, and it would have assisted the reader if it had been placed at the beginning of the book.