as we know, being existence (project) and falleness.' Sir Ernest Gowers' declaration about abstract words holds good. Binswanger's writings are best in German.


This textbook has now reached a fifth edition and this is evidence of its popularity. Nevertheless this reviewer found that in general the descriptions of diseases tended to be repetitive and lacking in clarity, and that a number of specific points could be criticized. For instance, the account of treatment of status epilepticus lacked urgency ('sodium phenobarbital, 1½ grains, is the most useful drug'); polymyositis gains no mention except briefly in the differential diagnosis of polyneuritis; and the curare sensitivity test for myasthenia gravis is described, including lethal doses of curare (1·0 mg./g. body weight intravenously for 'mild generalized curarization in a normal subject', 0·1 mg./g. body weight for a suspected myasthenic patient). There are some excellent textbooks of neurology, and in this highly competitive field it cannot be said that this example is amongst the leaders.

J. M. K. SPALDING


The authors describe, largely from the files of the Mayo Clinic, 241 sarcomas of the brain out of a total of 8,070 intracerebral tumours. Even from such a vast number of brain growths most British pathologists would be surprised at the number of sarcomas identified and the major feeling which the volume will arouse will centre around the justification for including some of the described growths under the heading of sarcoma. Doubt about the nomenclature detracts little from the value of the book which gives an excellent account of some unusual tumours of the brain which are difficult to classify anyway, but which occur with sufficient frequency to justify a distinctive nomenclature.

The authors give a brief historical account of each of the six types of brain sarcoma they have accepted and are careful to present the views of other authorities who have reached different conclusions about the origins of some of the growths. The numerous different names under which the growths have been described are given along with a considerable bibliography so that, apart from anything else, the book is a valuable reference for alternative names for some unusual intracerebral growths.

They classify brain sarcoma into fibrosarcomas, giant cell sarcomas, circumscribed sarcomas of the cerebellum, meningial sarcomatosis, haemangioepicytoma, and sarcomas of the reticuloendothelial system, the latter divided into reticuloendothelial-cell sarcomas, Hodgson's sarcomas, and microgliomas. Of the major groups, many pathologists will be reluctant to accept the giant cell sarcomas an an entity separate from glioblastoma multiforme, and the haemangioepicytoma from the angio-blastic meningioma. There will be little dispute about the fibrosarcoma arising from the meninges or within the brain, for some growths in these situations cannot be distinguished from fibrosarcomas which would be readily accepted in any other part of the body. Whether, however, astrocytic gliomas with apparent sarcomatous elements should be regarded as mixed gliosarcomas is a matter of some doubt. Few would challenge their cases of sarcomas of the reticuloendothelial system occurring within the brain, nor diffuse meningeal sarcomatosis for cases of uniform invasion of the meninges by sarcomatous growths occur in which the most scrupulous and careful search reveals no primary in the brain or elsewhere. In children one is inclined to think that a small medulloblastoma may have been missed, but the appearance of some diffuse meningeal growths in children is somewhat different from diffusely spread medulloblastomas. Without doubt also the growth described as a circumscribed sarcoma of the cerebellum presents a histological appearance which merits its separation from other cerebellar growths although instances of this neoplasm must often have been designated as medulloblastomas. Its relatively more frequent occurrence in adult life coupled with its distinctive histological features establishes the case for placing this growth in a separate category.

In all their accounts the authors have given valuable clinico-pathological correlations and studied the prognosis of the cases they have been able to follow. The book is, therefore, as complete an account of the tumours that might be called sarcomas of the brain as one could obtain. British pathologists, influenced by the tendency to simple nomenclature of tumours, may react with some initial antagonism to the additional diagnoses suggested in this book, but to anyone interested in the accurate identification of brain growths this volume provides much valuable information and is clearly the result of great experience and thought. The majority of the illustrations are good and demonstrate well the points made in the text.


Seven hundred and thirty-nine American ex-servicemen who sustained missile injury to the brain during World War II were examined by neurologists and psychologists five to nine years afterwards. The relationship between a number of variables (injury, neurological deficit, psychological test performance, E.E.G. record, and epilepsy) is summarized and tabulated.

The authors stress the difficulty of such an empirical, retrospective study. Their main contribution is a specialist account of neurological symptoms, providing a useful baseline for further work. Reports of gradual improvement in such symptoms as aphasia, hemiparesis, and visual field defects are of interest, suggesting a remarkable restoration of function after brain injury sustained when young.

Some features of the report are disappointing. The severity of injury is graded according to 'the end criterion' of epilepsy only. The assessments of the incidence of post-traumatic syndrome and of mental disturbance are of doubtful validity. There are discrepancies in the reports
not only of subjective phenomena but also of measurable deficits such as visual field defects. The psychological study is weakened by the inadequate technique used to measure memory functions (digit span, naming four presidents, and serial sevens) and by the lack of data concerning specific cognitive impairment in relation to the site of the lesion. The wealth of pathological scores on the Minnesota multiphasic personality inventory adds little whereas an analysis of the differential effects of right and left hemisphere lesions might have contributed to present knowledge of the asymmetry of cerebral functioning.

SAMMLUNG ZWANGLOSSER ABHANDLUNGEN AUS DEM GEBIETE DER PSYCHIATRIE UND NEUROLOGIE.
This is a most useful study of the normal capacity of the spinal canal at all levels and of the significance of increased measurements.

This book provides concise information with excellent diagrams regarding those aspects of anatomy of vertebrae, muscles, arteries, veins and peripheral nerves, which the neurologist requires to know about as well as the anaesthetist.

BOOKS RECEIVED
EL OLIGOFRENICO ADULTO, COMO PROBLEMA HUMANO, PSIQUIATRICO Y SOCIAL By J. Fuster and collaborators. (Pp. 156; illustrated.) Barcelona: Instituto Mental de la Santa Cruz. 1963.

NOTICES
A symposium will be held at Modena on the 'Diagnosis and semiology of cerebrovascular diseases' on 2 and 3 June 1965. For information and particulars please apply to the Secretariats of Clinica Oculistica or Clinica Neurologica, Policlinico Universitario, Modena, Italy.
