mengen. (The present position of phosphatid metabolism in the cerebrospinal fluid. I. A new extraction method for smallest quantities of fluid.)

F. Roeder. 557


*Experimentelle Untersuchungen über die lokale Einwirkung des Thiofens im Zentralnervensystem. (Experimental investigation of the local action of thiophen in the central nervous system.) J. Uppers. 623. Experimentelle Untersuchungen über retrograde Zellveränderungen in der unteren Oliva nach Lasionen des Kleinhirns. (Experimental studies of retrograde cell changes in the olivary body after cerebellar lesions.) A. Brodal. 646.

Astrocytomas of the Medulla.—In 25 histologically verified tumours of this region 12 were astrocytomas. In six cases the patient was under 20. The average duration of symptoms was 3 years 3 months. The tumours were diffuse in four cases, three of these being in the older group. Four tumours were circumscribed, one having the structure typical of a solid cerebellar astrocytoma. Some were protoplasmic astrocytomas, not different from those in the cerebrum. A piloid astrocytoma showed in parts a resemblance to a polar spongiosplastoma. In only one case was there cystic formation. (G. M. G.)

Experimental Cardiazol Epilepsy.—Historo- logical studies were made of the brains of twelve guinea-pigs after repeated fits induced by cardiazol. No changes could be found which could be ascribed to the cardiazol. (G. M. G.)

Metabolic Studies in Endogenous Psychoses.—The author criticizes reports of disordered liver function and other changes in mental disease on the basis of isolated investigations. So in groups of old-established schizophrenics, young recent cases, depressions, and other conditions patients were kept in bed on standard diets and various studies made at 3-hourly intervals for at least 3 days, to see if any significant rhythmic variations were to be found. Temperature, urine output, urobilin, urine colour values, urea, and serum albumen were investigated. In some cases Rona's test for quinine-resistant lipase was studied and in some blood pigment values. Some curves were obtained but were not consistent or significant, and the results give no confirmation of any disorder of liver function. (G. M. G.)

Thiophen Poisoning.—In experimental chronic poisoning in dogs a selective effect on the cerebellum is produced. In milder cases a diffuse change in the granulosa is found. In the more severely affected cases there are localized areas of degeneration and gliosis in the granulosa and to a less extent in the Purkinji cells, the distribution showing that the poison acts through a circulatory disturbance. The sensitiveness varies with the age, the older dogs showing quicker and more severe toxic symptoms. (G. M. G.)

BOOK REVIEWS

ANALYSIS OF HANDWRITING

H. J. Jacoby

(George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., London. 1939. Pp. 312. 10s. 6d.)

The psychiatrist, eager for aids in the study of personality, may often have remarked on the paucity of reliable books in English on the analysis of handwriting. He may rightly look for one in which the principles of graphological interpretation are induced from the correlation of writing characteristics with the features of personality adequately studied and assessed. Rated by such a criterion the present volume does not go far in meeting a real demand. It is an introduction to graphology and at points perhaps necessarily superficial. Some of its limitations are self-imposed —thus the neurological aspects of calligraphy are scarcely mentioned; other drawbacks and more serious come from the poor presentation of data on personality. The results of the “psychological penetration” of the author are loosely expressed in quite unorthodox jargon. The reader longs for adequate clinical description of the make-up of the subjects; he asks for something more certain than astral conceptions like “spiritual deflation of the ego.” Still, the volume has much of real value and compliments will surely be forthcoming from mail censors. The format is good and the accessibility of text and sample references commendably easy.
BOOK REVIEWS

AN OUTLINE OF MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY

E. Fretson Skinner


Dr. Skinner, in the introduction to his book, states that "the present essay is an attempt to place before the non-technical reader and medical students entering their professional curriculum some of the facts and hypotheses of modern psychology as applied to the causation of nervous diseases and their treatment by its means." Parts II and III, which deal with psychopathology and clinical aspects of psychiatry, adequately fulfil his purpose. Part I is a brief biological sketch which might well be named "Facts of life and nature for the very young." "In the hen, however, the male elements, the spermatozoa, are actually deposited in the female ovary canal before the egg is laid. The cock bird deposits his seed in the hen as the result of some attraction exerted by the hen bird probably due to chemical substances manufactured by her." It is difficult to understand the author's purpose in serving up forty pages of this sort of stuff to those who are likely to read a book, however elementary, on medical psychology.

INJURIES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, INCLUDING POISONINGS

Otto Marburg and Max Helfand

(Veritas Press, Inc., New York. 1939. Pp. 213. $3.00.)

With the enormous increase in injuries to the nervous system that is bound to occur during wartime, a book dealing with their diagnosis and treatment is certain to be welcomed. It is a pity, therefore, that this book should be marred by the manner of its presentation. The material is excellent, but it is only too plain that a considerable part of the book has been written by someone with an incomplete grasp of the English language. There are also a number of misprints and numerous mistakes in the spelling of authors' names both in the text and in the list of references at the end of the book. The classification, symptoms, signs, and pathology of the various injuries have been well described, but for the most part treatment has not been given in sufficient detail. The chapters on head injuries are good, but the part played by litigation in post-concussional neurosis is not sufficiently stressed. The section on spinal cord injuries is excellent, that on poisons poor. Some of the illustrations could easily be improved.

TEXTBOOK OF NERVOUS DISEASES

Robert Bing


This is the first English translation of this book which appeared in its original form in 1913. It covers practically the whole field of neurology and in addition there are three chapters on the psychoneuroses. The author has produced a most clear and logical account of the subject and the translation is most skilfully done, the book reading very fluently throughout, although one is bothered at times by the footnotes which seem rather too frequent. Treatment is very fully dealt with, in some cases too fully, for so many methods are given that one is at a loss to know which to use. But perhaps this is a fault of neurology rather than the book. The numerous photographs are good and show what they are meant to show and in addition there are some very helpful diagrams illustrating various anatomical points. A complete bibliography at the end of each chapter should prove very helpful.