

appear to come. Amongst conditions mentioned in which it may prove useful, are allergic reactions, cardiac arrhythmias due to direct cardiac irritation at operation, and a variety of painful lesions including the acute phase of anterior poliomyelitis and post-traumatic pain states. The method as detailed in the book appears to be safe, and is likely to have a wide application in painful conditions of doubtful aetiology which do not respond adequately to routine analgesics. Its vasodilator effect may also prove widely useful in thrombotic and vaso-spastic conditions.

Incontinence in Old People. By J. C. Brocklehurst. 1951. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 62 plates. Pp. 191 Price 30s.

This book draws attention to the difficult problem of managing old people who are incontinent. It includes a study of bladder physiology, and demonstrates the troublesome small capacity which these patients often have. The author finds that incontinence may be brought on by insufficient nursing attention to a bedridden patient: once a patient becomes incontinent he is apt to be left out of the bed-pan round, so that no attempt is made to re-train what is lost. The author holds out little hope for increasing the capacity of the bladder in these cases, and yet this seems to be worth further study.

It is also maintained that the bladder becomes spastic in spastic paralysis. It seems likely, however, that diminished capacity in these cases may be due more to a reaction to a period of retention and infection than to any direct effect of long tract disease. For the worst cases, the author has been experimenting with a plaster bed from which the excreta fall into a receptacle. It is hard, however, to believe that this will not cause more difficulties than it will cure. However, though the author's views on treatment are sometimes not very imaginative, this book will be useful to geriatric units and others dealing with the problem. The book is extravagantly produced, and is therefore much too expensive for a work of this kind.

Scientific Thought in the Twentieth Century. Edited by Prof. A. E. Heath. 1951. London: C. A. Watts & Co. Ltd. Pp. 387. Price 42s.

This is a symposium with articles written mainly by acknowledged authorities on the subjects treated. Of the 14 articles, eight (zoology, genetics, general medicine, social medicine, neurology, psychology, social anthropology and sociology) deal with aspects of biological science, using the term in its widest sense, and three of these deal directly with sociological problems, while a sociological viewpoint forms an important part of a further three (genetics, general medicine and psychology). This is probably a fair representation of the growing realization in this century of the importance of man's reactions to his fellow men.

The aim of this work is presumably to present to the intelligent amateur both the achievements and the trends of scientific thought which distinguish our times. It is difficult to use the symposium method as a means to this end: to be successful, contributions must be strung

together like beads in a necklace. In this volume most of the beads are admirable in themselves, but the string is largely absent. The article on genetics by Dr. Ford, and on zoology by Professor Medawar certainly succeed in combining facts and viewpoints, while Professor R. A. Fisher's article on statistics, a development which probably gives a more distinctive twentieth century flavour to science than any other, is somehow disappointing. The article on neurology is a misnomer, for the data discussed in it are almost exclusively psychiatric.

The tendency of science at the moment seems to be towards a fragmentation of knowledge, and this book, with its informative but rather isolated essays, is representative of this tendency. However, its publication is also a recognition of the need for integration and synthesis which has been increasingly expressed in the last decade.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

Textbook of Psychiatry. By Eugen Bleuler. Translated by A. A. Brill. 1951. New York: Dover Publications Inc. 51 illustrations. Pp. XXVI + 635. Price \$7.50.

Diseases of the Nervous System. By W. Russell Brain. 1951. London: Oxford University Press. 4th ed. 84 illustrations. Pp. XXII + 1002. Price 42s. (Reviewed in this issue.)

Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. 1951. London: J. & A. Churchill. Vol. LXX, Session 1950. Illustrated. Pp. LXIII + 223.

Psychobiologie der Volksseuche Neurose. By Hans Lungwitz. 1951. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter. Pp. 92. Price DM. 6.40.

Co-ordinating Committee on Abstracting and Indexing in the Medical and Biological Sciences. 1951. France: UNESCO. Pp. 92. Price 5s.

Die Darstellung von Lymphströmungen im inneren Milieu des Gehirns. By Richard Arwed Pfeifer. 1951. Leipzig: Geest & Portig K.-G. 73 text figures. Pp. VII + 92. Price DM. 10.-.

Neue Ergebnisse über die Angioarchitektur der Hypophyse. By Richard Arwed Pfeifer. 1951. Leipzig: Geest & Portig K.-G. 45 text figures. Pp. VII + 71. Price DM. 9.50.

Gesetze und Sinn des Traumes. By K. Leonhard. 1951. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. Pp. VIII + 146. Price DM. 11.70.

Die Hirngeschwülste im Biologischer und Morphologischer Darstellung. By K. J. Zulch. 1951. Leipzig: Johann Ambrosius Barth. Illustrated. Pp. VII + 232. Price D.M. 24.60.

The Hand in Psychological Diagnosis. By Charlotte Wolff. 1951. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd. Illustrated. Pp. XV + 218. Price 32s. 6d.

Mind, Perception and Science. By W. Russell Brain. 1951. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. Pp. V + 90. Price 6s. (Reviewed in this issue.)

Psychiatrie Sociale de l'Enfant. Conférences recueillies et redigées par C. Koupernik. 1951. Paris: Centre International de l'Enfance. Illustrated. Pp. 535. Price Fr. Frs. 2,500.

Modern Headache Therapy. By Arnold P. Friedman. 1951. London: Henry Kimpton. Pp. 164. Price 28s.

Textbook of Abnormal Psychology. By Carney Landis and M. Marjorie Bolles. 1950. New York: MacMillan. Pp. 634. Price 37s. 6d. (Reviewed in this issue.)

Das Autogene Training (Konzentrierte Selbstspannung). By J. H. Schultz. 1952. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 7th ed. 7 text figures. Pp. XVI + 344. Price DM. 28.50.

Die Exekution des Typus und andere kulturpsychopathologische Phänomene. By W. Wagner. 1952. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. Pp. VIII + 136. Price DM. 15.60.

THE NOVEMBER (1951) ISSUE

The November (1951) issue contains the following papers:

Hereditary Sensory Radicular Neuropathy. By D. Denny-Brown.

Calcification of the Corpus Striatum and Dentate Nuclei Occurring in a Family. By J. Foley.

The Centripetal Pathway from the Bladder and Urethra within the Spinal Cord. By P. W. Nathan and Marion C. Smith.

Retrograde Axonal Changes of the De-Afferentated Nucleus Gracilis Following Mid-Brain Tractotomy. By P. Glees, J. Soler, and R. A. Bailey.

The Localization of Some Acid Phosphatases in Brain Tissue. By D. Naidoo and O. E. Pratt.

Efferent Connexions of the Human Prefrontal Region, with Reference to Fronto-Hypothalamic Pathways. By E. Beck, A. Meyer, and J. Le Beau.

Anomalous Horizontal Lamination of Nerve Cells in the Supragranular Cortex of an Idiot Brain. By M. C. H. Dodgson.

Brain Abscess: Aspiration, Drainage, or Excision. By O. V. Jooma, J. B. Pennybacker, and G. K. Tutton.

The Diffusion of Substances in the Subarachnoid Spaces. By G. B. Belloni.

Perceptual Patterns during Recovery from General Anaesthesia. By Joseph Jaffe and Morris B. Bender.

Cessation of Dreaming after Brain Injury. By M. E. Humphrey and O. L. Zangwill.

An Investigation of the Psychiatric Aspects of Disseminated Sclerosis. By R. T. C. Pratt.

A number of copies are still available and may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, price 7s. 6d.