Book reviews

DEVELOPMENTAL DYSLEXIA By Macdonald Critchley.
(Pp. xi + 104; 36 figures; 5 tables. 25s.) London:
William Heinemann Medical Books. 1964.

Developmental dyslexia is a fascinating but sad topic. Its specific character can be discerned only with difficulty amid the mass of reading disabilities of diverse origins. Its symptomatology is definable only in terms relating to cultural material. These facts hardly conduce to good understanding between the medical and educational authorities who are jointly responsible for looking after the victim. On the latter, and on his parents, clumsy and confused terminological and therapeutic endeavours have reacted unfortunately. Far more complete understanding, based on experimental analysis, of the normal reading function will be needed before these difficulties can be wholly resolved.

In the meantime Dr. Critchley's brief but far-flung treatment of the subject should be welcomed by all those doctors, psychologists, and educationalists who have to do with the problem. He is concerned to emphasize the specific (and thus, by implication, neurologically based) nature of the disorder, while at the same time correcting any consequential impression that it is wholly intractable. In this latter connexion he brings forward practice and experience in Denmark, where handicaps of this kind, whether labelled congenital or developmental, are more clearly acknowledged and systematically handled.

The book is provided with a large and useful bibliography, though this does not always tie up completely with references in the text.

AFFECT OF IMAGERY CONSCIOUSNESS By S. S. Tomkins.
Vol. I. The positive affects (Pp. xi + 522. 65s.) Vol. II.
The negative affects (Pp. 580. 65s.) London: Tavistock
Publications. 1963.

The author presents a general theory of personality in which affects (in contrast to drives) and consciousness play a greater part than is usually accorded to them in contemporary psychology. The role of humiliation in maintaining the paranoid posture is one of the problems selected for particular attention. A further volume on 'The negative affects' and a fourth on 'Cognition and ideology' are promised.

GUIDE TO PSYCHIATRY By Myre Sim. (Pp. ix + 868.
55s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.
1963.

This book is offered as a guide not only to medical students but also to family doctors, physicians, surgeons, and paediatricians. Its orientation is exemplified by the position of the chapters on psychology and psychopathology at the beginning of the book, and of the chapter on symptomatology and examination of the patient at the end. The consideration that led to this order was that in general medicine the student has some

knowledge of normal physiology, disturbances of which are encountered in disease, whereas in psychiatry he has little or no knowledge of psychopathology, the basic discipline of psychiatry. The soundness of this approach depends on the relevance of Freudian psychopathology as a basic discipline in the aetiology and treatment of psychiatric illness, and the usefulness of this approach depends on the acceptance of Freudian psychopathology by the potential readers of the book as a likely basis of explanation and treatment of psychiatric illness. It is the latter consideration on which this book fails, for the excellent summary of psychopathology is not woven into the rest of the book, and one suspects that the author himself, as a practising psychiatrist, rightly pays little attention to the concept of mania as 'a narcissistic victory over depression' when he is himself confronted by a patient with a mania. At the present time there is no sign that psychopathology can ever be the sole basic discipline of psychiatry, and the constitutional approach to psychiatric illness is not here given a fair or (especially in the sections on genetics) a skilled treatment.

A MANUAL OF PSYCHIATRY, 6th ed. By K. R. Stallworth.
(Pp. 389. 30s.) Christchurch, New Zealand: N. M.
Peryer Ltd. 1963.

This book gives a clear, concise and accurate account of psychiatric illnesses: its popularity amongst medical students is indicated by the issue of six editions since 1950. The presentation is perhaps too didactic, and the student may be left with the impression that there are few controversial issues in psychiatry. The absence of references to further reading enhances this notion, and the effect of the book may be that students will pass their final examination but may not be inspired to become psychiatrists.

BEING-IN-THE-WORLD Selected papers of Ludwig Binswanger. Translated and with a critical introduction to his existential psychoanalysis, by Jacob Needleman.
(Pp. ix + 364. 52s. 6d.) London: Basic Books. 1963.

Ludwig Binswanger is one of the most distinguished psychotherapists in the world. His writings have had appreciable influence not only in his native country, Switzerland, but also in France and more recently in the United States. But the existential theory with which he has supplemented psychoanalysis is unintelligible or antipathetic to all but a tiny minority in Great Britain. The reasons for this lack of acceptance can be partly recognized from the present book. Two-fifths of it consists of an exposition of Binswanger's views by Professor Needleman, a philosopher, who in the rest of the book offers a translation of some of Binswanger's most important articles. An example of the translation (p. 213) will suffice: 'Thrownness, in the sense of the facticity of the Dasein's answerability to its that-it-is, is only one component ("existential") of this structure, the others,

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

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY 5th ed. By Bernard Alpers. (Pp. 991; 238 figures. £6) Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford. 1963.

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

SARCOMAS OF THE BRAIN By James W. Kernohan and Alfred Uihlein (viii + 192; 96 figures. \$8.00.) Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. 1962.

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 sarcomata into fibrosarcomas, giant cell sarcomas, circumscribed sarcomas of the cerebellum, meningeal sarcomatosis, haemangiopericytomas, 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 as an entity separate from glioblastoma multiforme, and the haemangiopericytoma 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.

A FOLLOW-UP OF HEAD WOUNDS IN WORLD WAR II By A. Earl Walker and Seymour Jablon. (Pp. x + 202; 177 tables. \$1.75.) Washington: V. A. Medical Monograph. 1961.

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