

L'Épilépsie ; conceptions actuelles sur sa pathogénie et son traitement.

By Dr. PH. PAGNIEZ. Paris : Masson et Cie, 1929. Pp. 199. Price fr. 26.

THE researches of the past thirty years on the pathogenesis of the epileptic states and in particular the employment of more accurate biochemical standards have resulted in an accumulated mass of data which is difficult to sift. Herein lies the value of such a book as the present, which strives to evaluate the evidence collected, to separate the important from the unimportant, and to review the entire situation in the light of modern conceptions. We note a gradual shift from clinical and experimental methods to those of the biochemical laboratory and there is a real danger that attention may be diverted too far into metabolic bypaths without material increase in our knowledge of the epilepsies. Dr. Pagniez enumerates and examines the new matter ; as might be expected, however, his conclusions are purely tentative, and we do not see any immediate prospect of solution of the old problems—the neurigenic as opposed to humoral conceptions ; the priority of vascular over neuronie discharge ; the rigid separation of cause from effect—in short, the vexed problems of last century remain as intangible as ever. This work is to be recommended, however, as a balanced and useful presentation of the subject, and it contains an adequate bibliography.

M. C.

An Outline of Neurology and its Outlook. By Sir E. FARQUHAR BUZZARD.

London : Oxford University Press, 1929. Pp. 24. Price 1s.

THIS little pamphlet represents the text of the eleventh Earl Grey Memorial Lecture delivered by Sir Farquhar Buzzard at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The address, which was read to a lay audience, gives a clear and interesting account of the development of neurology as a branch of philosophy, and an able exposé of the present scope of the subject. In an easy and scholarly manner the author describes how our knowledge of the science has developed along five distinct avenues, viz., those of anatomy, physiology, pathology, psychology and clinical observation.