

Reviews and Notices of Books.

Principles of Experimental Psychology. By HENRI PIÉRON. Translated by J. B. MINER, Ph.D. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd. 1929. Price 10s. 6d.

THE title of this work is slightly misleading. It deals less with principles and much more with results. The latter are well arranged, but are stated in a cursory way with few references and sources, from the labour of providing which the author expressly excuses himself. Part one, on the reaction processes and the forms of behaviour, and part two, on the affective reactions, are disappointing on account of their vagueness. The traditional difficulty in distinguishing reflexes and instincts is quickly surmounted by regarding them as extremes of a continuous series. After stating—what is quite true—that the terminology of the domain of affect is extraordinarily inexact and variable, the author does not clarify the situation. He says “The agreeable and disagreeable are designated by very different names; sensation, sentiment, emotion and affection. As all these words are used in other meanings, we shall say that these processes are elementary affects. Pleasure and pain are emotional forms of the elementary affects. Emotion is essentially affective reaction of an intense character.” The reader is none the wiser. It may be the translation (we have not been supplied with an original) that is at fault, but such a paragraph as the third on page 59 hardly seems to make sense as it stands.

The bodily manifestations of emotion are simply the spilling-over of psychic energy—mere by-products; the criterion of biological usefulness is hardly considered. Memory and motor habits are identified with each other. The experimental work on memory is considered to give results strictly homologous with Pavlov's on the acquisition of conditioned reflexes.

The whole book is well arranged, but gives the impression of having been rather hurriedly written.

Problems of Neurosis: a Book of Case-histories. By ALFRED ADLER. With a Prefatory Essay by F. G. CRUICKSHANK, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edited by PHILIPPE MAIRET. London: Kegan Paul. 1929. Pp. 178. Price 8s. 6d. net.

DR. ADLER's new book on the problems of neurosis is well worth pondering over in a quiet hour, since its pages provide the reader with a series of intimate glimpses of clinical histories—fragments from life of maladjustments, misfits, efforts, struggles, and compensations. The types of case here narrated are

precisely those with which every practising physician comes in contact, where the patient needs guidance and direction much more than any specific treatment. One admires both the skill in analysis and the human sympathy revealed by the author as he turns over the sheets of his case-book. Medical and psychiatric technique is discussed as required, but the major outlines of the book consist of explanations of the genesis of symptoms and of the sequels to inferiority situations. The simplicity with which these are set forth conceals to some extent the consummate knowledge of human nature behind it.

Dr. Cruickshank's preface forms a *mise-au-point* for the reader who wishes information in regard to the present-day status of Adler's individual psychology.

Science and Personality. By WILLIAM BROWN, M.A., M.D., D.Sc. With a foreword by Sir OLIVER LODGE. London: Oxford University Press; Humphrey Milford. 1929. Price 12s. 6d. net.

THE nucleus of this book consists of several essays and addresses published elsewhere by Dr. Brown, supplemented by chapters containing elementary accounts of various aspects of psychology, psychopathology, and religion; by an appendix on a spiritualistic séance, a preface by Sir Oliver Lodge in which the author's qualifications for the catholic task he has imposed on himself in this book are set forth, and by a letter from a grateful patient describing some of Dr. Brown's methods from the patient's point of view. The writing is clear and the book should appeal very much to those for whom it is intended. Biological science is accepted as more fundamental than physics and chemistry on the basis of its organic preoccupation. God is the most concrete reality and an acceptance of the Christian religion is assumed. God is the concretisation of all values; values are such things as satisfy individual needs; values grow with the organisation of sentiments. Ultimate values are referred to, but not elucidated. With these views, the author makes a rather half-hearted essay at reconciling analytic psychotherapy with spiritual healing. The psychoanalytic views of the origin of religious belief are discarded as crude, but nothing very definite is substituted. Dr. Brown performs a useful service in emphasising the importance of the intellect as a factor of instinctive force, and by calling attention to the unwarrantedly complete depreciation of intellectual constructions by Freudian theory.

Handbuch der Psychiatrie. Edited by Professor Dr. G. ASCHAFFENBURG. Allg. Teil; Bd. II. Spezielle Histopathologie des Grosshirns. By Prof. Dr. A. JAKOB, Hamburg. Leipzig and Vienna: Franz Deuticke. 1929. Pp. 459-870. Price Mk. 40.

WE have already reviewed (this JOURNAL, vol. viii, p. 187) the first part of Prof. Jakob's treatise on cerebral neuropathology, enumerating its noteworthy features and praising its conspicuous merits. The companion volume dealing with the special histopathology of the brain fully maintains the wonderfully high standard of its predecessor; some 266 illustrations, many of which are

coloured, constitute in themselves a kind of atlas which is sure to prove useful. The subjects dealt with comprise tuberculosis of brain and meninges, syphilis of the same, trypanosomiasis, disseminated sclerosis, and diffuse sclerosis. Nearly 200 pages are reserved for the pathology of general paralysis—an impressive example of the elaborate scale on which the work is planned. One of the particularly interesting sections discusses syphilitic arteritis of the small cortical vessels, an important subject to which little or no attention has been given in England. We note also the attraction of the pages concerned with the debatable question of tabetic psychoses distinct from those of the more serious affection. The problems of disseminated sclerosis are examined rather shortly, and their bearing on disseminated encephalomyelitis investigated; the author cites with approval the view expressed by Wohlwill, that when there is talk of the latter passing into or blending with the former it is not the respective diseases, but our conceptions of them, that thus seem to mingle.

This work is much the finest modern textbook of neuropathology with which we are acquainted and as a work of reference may fairly be considered indispensable.

Handbuch der Psychiatrie. Edited by Prof. Dr. G. ASCHAFFENBURG. Spez. Teil; Bd. I, Teil 2. Die Optisch-Agnostischen Störungen. By Prof. Dr. OTTO PÖTZL, Prag. Leipzig and Vienna: Franz Deuticke. 1928. Pp. 358. Price Mk. 25.

THE different varieties of so-called mind-blindness are divided by Prof. Pötzl into three chief groups; the first consists of visual agnosia in respect of apperception as a whole, or failure to recognise objects by sight. The second includes more special or limited subvarieties, such as pure word-blindness, congenital word-blindness, failure of colour perception ('optic aphasia' for colours), figure- and music-blindness, and others. In the third are placed still other peculiarities such as cerebral metamorphopsia, central diplopia, defective visual orientation, the 'visual-mind-paralysis' of Balint (inability to look in certain directions without visual field defect or peripheral motor lesion), etc. A fourth section deals with certain complex conditions such as derangement of distance appreciation, loss of faculty of forming visual images, and forms of visual agnosia due to cerebral trauma.

As a compendium of what is known of a complex and difficult subject, Dr. Pötzl's monograph deserves careful perusal. We have merely summarised some of its features sufficiently to indicate its width of conception, and cannot here enter on any detailed commentary. It may be noted, however, that dysmegalopsia of central origin, and some analogous disturbances associated with hysteria, epilepsy, and other states, do not seem to have attracted the author's attention, although calculated to throw light on an obscure problem.

Les Troubles Mentaux de la Sclérose en Plaques. By Dr. ANDRÉ OMBREDANE, Paris. Paris : Les Presses Universitaires de France. 1929. Pp. 352. Price not stated.

IT is satisfactory to find increasing attention devoted to what may be termed the organic approach to mental problems. Of this Dr. Ombredane's work provides a conspicuous example. He has undertaken an analysis of the 'mental' symptoms of disseminated sclerosis, and substantiates views expressed by Cottrell and Wilson to the effect that they are far more frequent than has hitherto been allowed. No fewer than 47 of 50 cases exhibited such phenomena, though the exact sense of the word 'mental' is not defined, or, rather, is taken very comprehensively. Three classes of symptom can occur, viz., disorders of affectivity and intellect (the 'polysclerotic mental state'), conditions of dementia, and psychoses. The author finds 'intellectual' impairment almost as common as affective, including therein difficulty in sustained mental effort, reflective fatigability, imperfection of memory, slowness in comprehension and poor mental analysis and synthesis. Only in a small minority are demented and psychotic states recognisable; mental confusion is rare, though anxiety is declared to be a fundamental feature of the disease. From the viewpoint of pathogenesis a theory is advocated which ascribes such 'mental' symptoms less to the presence of cortical and subcortical plaques of sclerosis than to the existence of a diffuse toxi-infective process.

A good bibliography is appended, and a large number of personally observed illustrative cases.

Handbuch der Neurologie des Ohres. Edited by Prof. Dr. G. ALEXANDER, Prof. Dr. O. MARBURG and Dr. H. BRUNNER. II Band, 2 Teil. With 242 illustrations, some in colour. Berlin and Vienna : Urban & Schwarzenberg. 1929. Pp. 723-1950. Price Mk. 150.

WITH this volume the fine textbook of aural neurology compiled by members of the Austrian and other continental schools of medicine is completed. Some 1,200 pages long, the new part is superbly illustrated and printed in a readable type. Among its more important contributions from the wider viewpoint of the neurologist (as compared with the otologist) are those devoted to intracranial complications of inflammatory ear disease, and to involvement of the eighth nerve in various general toxic conditions. Long articles by two of the editors cover the field of otogenic temporal and cerebellar abscess respectively; and nearly 300 pages are required for a discussion by Prof. Bonvicini of aphasic disorders attributable to temporal lobe lesions. A description of temporal tumours comes with the authority of Prof. Marburg. As for eighth nerve symptomatology, it is examined in relation to a series of toxi-infective states ranging from epidemic encephalitis to morphinism of which it may (or, for that matter, may not) be one of the revealing signs. The reader will thus see how much of general neurological interest is herein included, and perusal

of the above-mentioned chapters will convince him of the high standard of attainment which the writers have set themselves.

As an encyclopædia of otological neurology these volumes form a desirable addition to the specialist's library and we congratulate the editorial staff on the successful accomplishment of their task ; they have produced a remarkable book which is sure to become a ' classic.'

Beiträge zur mikroskopischen Anatomie des vegetativen Nervensystems. By Prof. Dr. PHILIPP STÖHR, Jr., Bonn. (Fortschritte der Naturwissenschaftlichen Forschung, ed. by Prof. Dr. EMIL ABERHALDEN : N.F., Hft. 9). With 61 illustrations. Berlin and Vienna : Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1929. Pp. 106. Price Mk. 10.

SINCE the sympathetic system has attracted and continues to attract so much attention in recent years on the part of neurologist and experimental physiologist exact knowledge of its morphological anatomy is a plain desideratum. Numerous statements, current in textbooks and accepted without question, are shown by Prof. Stöhr to require revision, and some of these may here be indicated.

It is very difficult to say where the sympathetic system begins and ends, and impossible microscopically to separate sympathetic from cerebrospinal fibres. Non-myelinated fibres occur among the latter just as definitely as among the former. The distinctions usually relied on as between sympathetic and parasympathetic systems are purely physiological, and certainly not histological. Since sympathetic fibrils end within the actual protoplasm of, for example, smooth muscle-fibre cells, it is altogether impracticable, and anatomically unjustifiable, to claim that a given poison acts on ' nerve-endings ' as distinct from ' cell-substance ' or vice versa. Again, the common separation of myelinated from unmyelinated fibres is proved histologically to have no basis in fact ; it is impossible in numerous instances to determine whether a given fibre is or is not myelinated ; and Prof. Stöhr prefers to speak of fibres poorly or richly myelinated, respectively. Fibres declared to be unmyelinated are in fact surrounded by a fine plasmatic sheath.

There is no individuality in sympathetic nerve fibre-bundles ; exchange from one bundle to another constantly occurs ; and it is of peculiar interest to note that though such bifurcations and communications are frequent the actual trunk that forks does not of necessity become smaller in dimensions. Fibres never pursue the shortest course to a given tissue, but are extraordinarily wavy, running through plexuses in a most complicated fashion. No ' free endings ' of sympathetic fibres are ever demonstrable ; rather is there a rete nervosum, a syncytium, at their terminations in cell or other tissues, whereby neural and cytological protoplasm is in practical continuity.

Sympathetic ganglion cells are nearly always polygonal or multipolar, rarely bipolar, and while generically alike, are individually diverse ; no one

cell is ever the exact counterpart of another. The processes of such cells range in number from 3 to 20, more or less; and morphologically no distinction whatever can be drawn between dendrites and neurites, hence it is often impossible to determine which are which. Again, none of these processes end 'free.' In the main paravertebral sympathetic chain the 'white' and 'grey' rami communicantes are by no means so distinct as the epithets suggest, and those of efferent cannot be separated from others of afferent function on anatomical grounds. It is highly questionable whether any sympathetic neurones occur as individual units; on the contrary, the evidence here adduced goes to prove that the whole system is a cellular-fibrillar network, embedded in a protoplasmic continuum.

Much more of lively interest will be found in this excellent monograph, which reveals almost on every page the critical and cautious scientific mind of its author.

S. A. K. W.

Cerebrospinal Fluid in Health and Disease. By ABRAHAM LEVINSON, B.S., M.D. 3rd Edition, with 88 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton, 1929. Pp. 386. Price 35s.

THE present edition of this well-known book has been expanded by about half its original bulk. This increase in size is chiefly due to an enlargement of the chapter dealing with the changes in "the cerebrospinal fluid in various diseases," and to the addition of a chapter on "the cerebrospinal fluid in infants and children." In both of these chapters little more than a bald statement of the usual changes is given, and with some of these statements, as for example that "in rabies the cerebrospinal fluid is normal," we cannot agree. Little attempt is made to explain the various abnormalities which appear in various diseases; indeed, they all seem to be attributed to a general "irritation of the meninges." Perhaps our knowledge has not yet advanced to the point where we can give a reason for each departure from the normal, but it would certainly have been helpful if a rather more determined attempt to do this had been made. Expansion and rearrangement of the subject matter are noticeable also throughout the book, which has been brought more up-to-date in several directions, notably in regard to technique. Here again, we find that in respect of some important methods of examination the description given is not sufficiently detailed. It would not be possible, for example, for any one who did not possess previous knowledge of the test to perform the Kahn reaction on the cerebrospinal fluid from the directions given in this book. In these respects we feel that there is room for still further improvement in subsequent editions, but the additions which have been made to the book in this edition have considerably enhanced its value.

J. G. G.