

certain of the chapters are inadequate on the scientific side, and are not in agreement with English teaching on the clinical side. An exception must be made in favour of the chapter on the basal ganglia, which is an excellent résumé of our knowledge of the functions of these structures. Another criticism that might be made is that much recent work from English and American laboratories has been omitted. It is true that the rapid advances in the physiology of the nervous system make it impossible for any book to be up to date, but the bibliographies contain very few references to articles which have appeared in English within the last five years.

With these reservations we welcome a book which at least attempts to give the neurologist a review of the present position of nervous physiology. When rapid advances are being made on every side it is valuable to have such statements issued from time to time, and we look forward to the tenth volume of this treatise which is to complete the neurological section.

The present volume includes chapters on 'The Neuron,' by Verne, 'Wallerian degeneration,' by Couvreur, 'The processes of disintegration of nervous tissue,' by Ivan Bertrand, 'Nerves and reflexes,' by Cardot and Laugier, a suggestive chapter on 'Tropism,' by Bohn, 'Sensation and motion,' by Lévy-Valensi, 'Cerebral localisation,' by Alajouanine and L. Cornil, 'The basal ganglia,' by Lhermitte, 'The cerebral circulation,' by Binet, 'Convulsions,' by Richet, 'Sleep,' by Legendre, and 'Anæsthesia,' by Nicloux.

The absence of an index is a real loss in a book of this kind.

J. G. G.

**Emotie, Bloedsuiker, en Hersenstam.** By Dr. A. L. C. Palies, Groningen. Assen : Van Gorcum and Comp. 1933. Pp. 82. Price not stated.

In his thesis for the doctorate at the University of Groningen, Dr Palies has made a useful contribution to the interrelation of body and mind by a series of experiments designed to show how bodily processes are influenced by the emotional life. He took 100 cases of heterogeneous nature, most, though not all, being neurological, and, using routine lumbar puncture as an emotional stimulus, calculated the blood sugar of every case—before and after. He also took, by way of control, an entirely different series of 100 cases and noted how blood sugar varied in them at precisely the same time and under identical conditions except for the lumbar puncture. In 77 of the first 100 an increase in blood sugar occurred, and this is attributed by Dr. Palies solely to the 'emotion' of the puncture. Exceptionally, in the remaining 23 it either remained steady, or fell. He then ascertained that no fewer than 16 of these patients were suffering from presumptive disease of the basal ganglia, and argues that lesions in the subthalamic region interfere with the action of emotion on this particular form of metabolism. He goes a step farther, indeed, in affirming that that part of the brain is where the emotional mental

life intervenes in the functions of the vegetative nervous system. Whether such inferences are permissible, however, is open to question.

**Outline of the Cranial Nerves.** By John Favill, M.D., etc., Associate Clinical Professor of Neurology, Rush Medical College, Chicago. Chicago : University of Chicago Press ; Cambridge : Cambridge University Press. 1933. Pp. 112. Price 8s. 6d.

IN convenient form Dr. Favill supplies the student with a vademecum of the cranial nerves, in which the anatomy, functions, pathology, and methods of testing for each nerve are set down succinctly. In the case of the eighth the reader is given a particularly full account of vestibular reactions and of their clinical value, supplemented by tables and diagrams. So far as we have noted this little book is singularly free from error or mistake ; it certainly contains much information in small space. The diagrams are simple, accurate, and well drawn.

**Mental Diseases.** Catechism Series, second edition. Edinburgh : E. and S. Livingstone. 1933. Pp. 80. Price 1s. 6d.

THIS little primer of mental diseases, written in the question-and-answer style, meets with some adequacy the minimum requirements of those who find themselves in the position of having to sit for examination in the subject. The descriptions are simple, the definitions clear, the point of view modernized. It would not be difficult, however, to supply illustrations of the fact that some recent advances have not been incorporated, that some of the clinical accounts are too stereotyped, that some of the treatments might be improved.

**The Practical Medicine Series of Year Books : Neurology and Psychiatry.** Edited by Peter Bassoe, M.D., Clinical Professor of Neurology, Rush Medical College, Chicago, and Franklin G. Ebaugh, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine. Series 1932. Chicago : The Year Book Publishers Co. 1933. Pp. 488. Price \$2.25.

THE year-book series of current medical literature, reviewed in abstract, is widely known for its practical usefulness and up-to-date character. The present volume, concerned with neurology and psychiatry, will bear comparison with any of its predecessors, providing as it does short accounts of scores of articles which were published during 1932. The choice made by the editors is excellent, and the abstracts are uniformly well done. Neurology takes perhaps three-quarters of the volume, and psychiatry the remaining fourth. It is a book for the library shelves of the specialist who keeps abreast of his own subject.

**Arbeiten aus dem Neurologischen Institute an der Wiener Universität.**  
 Vol. XXXV. Leipzig and Vienna : Franz Deuticke. 1933. Pp. 181.  
 Price M. 33.

THE latest volume in this well-known series contains several articles of which note should be taken. One of these is from the pen of the editor, Professor Otto Marburg, giving a full description of a typical case of basophil adenoma of the pituitary. The clinical syndrome corresponds entirely with that which may now perhaps be regarded as established, while the pathological findings confirm those of Cushing. At the same time Professor Marburg specially comments on the state of other glands (suprarenals, testis, etc.) and discusses the still unsettled question of whether the basophil adenoma per se can be held responsible for the totality of the clinical symptoms. Another paper, by Dr. Jose Gil, describes the neuropathology of a long-standing case of progressive muscular atrophy with pseudohypertrophy, occurring in a woman who died at the age of 54, and dating back for its commencement to her 'teens. Although the cells of the ventral horns were, relatively speaking, intact, with the exception perhaps of some in the mediodorsal group, those in the vicinity of the commissure and at the base of the dorsal cornua were much degenerated. A case of hemichorea, described by Dr. Tsiminakis, is shown to have been associated with contralateral softening of the cerebellar hemisphere and dentate nucleus, with secondary degeneration of the superior cerebellar peduncle and nucleus ruber. The case belongs to the class of 'Bindearmchorea,' but the clinical account is lacking in detail, and it may be remarked that the author's description mentions 'rhythmical' twitches and movements of the affected limbs. Dr. Tronconi has examined the extrapyramidal system of nuclei and the central vegetative centres in two cases of myasthenia gravis, and concludes that so far as these are concerned the results of pathological study must be considered negative.