Reviews.

Pathology of the Nervous System. By E. FARQUHAR BUZZARD, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, and J. GODWIN GREENFIELD, B.Sc., M.D., M.R.C.P., Pathologist to the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic. Demy 8vo. Pp. xv + 334. Illustrated. 1921. London: Constable & Co. Price 35s. net.

THIS volume is written by a clinical neurologist of high reputation and mature experience, in collaboration with the pathologist to the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic in Queen Square, London; and the intention is to furnish medical students and practitioners with the data which link up the structural changes in the nervous system with the clinical signs of nervous disease, and so presumably to supplement the various books on the subject, which, so far, have been mainly clinical.

One may say at the outset that the task the writers have shouldered is one of great difficulty, and demands much discrimination in the selection of those principles and facts which should enable the unspecialized practitioner of medicine and the unqualified student to understand the cause and the localization of nervous lesions.

Almost the whole field of neuropathology has been touched upon in a rather superficial manner, and in a certain measure the views expressed are a representation of current work on this subject. There are some chapters which are particularly good, which are broad in outline and free from unnecessary details—for example, those dealing with syphilis, tetanus, poliomyelitis in its various forms, lethargic encephalitis, rabies, and other infective conditions; but there are other portions of this work which the authors would do well to revise and supplement in subsequent editions. One would like to suggest in this connection that the introductory pages dealing with the neurone, the neuroglia, etc., be considerably amplified; and that more consideration be given to such questions as the 'sympathetic' and 'endocrine' influence on the central nervous system. This, one feels, would be helpful in conveying a broader and more comprehensive view of the subject.

In a work such as this there are, doubtless, many points of a controversial nature, and a few arise in the reviewer's mind, such as that corpora amylacea (p. 24) receive less attention than the myelogenous bodies so frequently met with in primary myelin degeneration of the cord; that the origin of compound granular corpuscles (p. 29) should be dealt with in a broader manner; and that the description of the changes in general paralysis of the insane should be rewritten (pp. 155-6). After all, this disease is a very definite clinical entity with a remarkably definite morbid

histology, and is worthy of a fuller description than we have in the book before us. As a matter of fact the histological examination of the brain and cord of such cases is an education in itself.

The work can be recommended as a new phase in British neurological literature. We required a book of this nature in English, and it is welcome ; but if, in the future, the authors can see their way to enlarge on the subject and lay down the problems, in so far as we know them at present, which concern neurological research, one can predict a much larger sphere of usefulness for a volume which lends itself so naturally to expansion. In conclusion, one would remark that the subject matter is clearly expressed, and that the illustrations are excellent.

D. ORR.

Instinct and the Unconscious: a Contribution to a Biological Theory of the Psychoneuroses. By W. H. R. RIVERS, M.D., Fellow and Prælector in Natural Science, St. John's College, Cambridge. Second edition. Large 8vo. Pp. viii + 277. 1922. Cambridge: University Press. 16s. net.

THE second edition of Dr. Rivers' book does not differ in marked degree from the first, save in the addition of two new appendices ; its appearance is a proof of the popularity of an attempt to compare the functional disorders of mind and nervous system with the concepts held by biologists and physiologists.

Such a book may be analyzed either from the standpoint of the psychologist or from that of the physiologist, and it is from the latter that this present review is written. It may be said at once that, brilliant as the psychological reasoning contained in the work may be, the physiological treatment of the subject is by no means free from criticism.

Dr. Rivers treats first of the 'unconscious' and then of 'suppression'. His definitions are not very exact, and it would appear that the word 'unconscious' is used as an adjective to qualify that experience which cannot be brought into the field of consciousness by any ordinary process of memory or association. Again, 'the unconscious' appears to be composed in part of such unavailable experience (if we interpret aright). 'Suppression' is that process by which experience becomes unconscious.

Here, then, we have two things—experience and the suppression of experience. It appears to be Dr. Rivers' argument that the experience which is suppressed is painful experience, and that the suppression occurs because of the discomfort which would otherwise be incurred. He goes so far as to say (p. 20) that the experience which tends to be forgotten or repressed is the immediately painful. As the word 'repression' denotes here a conscious process, we must infer that those things which are put out of the mind are usually painful. This is probably incorrect. The writer of this review finds (in common with many others) that the major part of active repression in everyday life is occupied in putting away the memories of pleasant experience—green fields and streams—that the mind may concentrate upon its problems.

The biological portion of the book is mainly occupied in the finding of