danger of allowing psychology to gravitate in the direction of a refined physiology. Taking the brain as the organ of mind has only led hitherto to sterile results, and both Professor Haldane and Professor W. McDougall have stated that the nervous and mental worlds cannot be bridged. The latter rightly says that "we are recognizing more and more that mind has a nature and a structure and functions of its own which cannot be adequately described in terms of brain structure and its physical processes." Biogenetic concepts of the mind in health and disease can be discussed without the introduction of nerve cells and nerve impulses. Is it really the case that a few pages relating to embryology, nerve cells, the anatomy of the brain and spinal cord are going to help the student to an adequate understanding of manic-depressive psychosis, paranoia, or hallucinations? The writer's desire to correlate the mental and physical leads him to this definition of repression: "By repression is meant an abnormal form of relief of the energy of a nerve impulse following an intrapsychic conflict, in which the intellectual content leaves a deep impression on the cells of the associative area of the cortex." Have we reason for any such assumption? Many instances of like statements abound. The chapter on treatment is headed "The Treatment of Disorders of the Nervous System" (!). Dr. Waddelow Smith's only justification for offering this volume, he says, is "to stimulate students in studying the many excellent textbooks," and "to give a prop or two to the general practitioner in forming an opinion of the many cases of psychic origin." These justifications have their humorous aspects. Notwithstanding the detractions we have spoken of, there is much of value in the book, though we should hardly like to put it in the hands of a student without a good deal of guidance. For rapidly running over many psychiatric points prior to an examination it will be of use. Mental diseases are only dealt with in a sketchy outline. The illustrated plates are excellently rendered.

C. S. R.

Report of the Scientific Researches on Venereal Diseases.—Published by the United States Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board. The American Social Hygiene Association, New York, 1924. Pp. 71.

THIS pamphlet is a *résumé* of the results of the scientific researches concerning venereal diseases that were financed and directed by the U.S.I.S.H.B. during the years 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921. It embodies in a short form much useful information. Of special interest to neurologists are: (1) The details of the Warthin spirochæte stain applied to paraffin sections, to smears and to films of cerebrospinal fluid deposit (*v. this JOURNAL*, iv, 356). (2) The research of Egerer-Seham and Nixon into the chemistry of normal and syphilitic spinal fluid. (3) The work of Solomon Thompson and Pfeiffer on the diffusions of fluids introduced into the cerebrospinal canal. (4) Taft's examination of the choroid plexus and brain in G.P.I. (*v. this JOURNAL*, ii, 221, and iii, 173). (5) Researches by Shepardson and Solomon and Klauder on the provoked Wassermann reaction in blood and in spinal fluid. (6) The investigations of Moore and Keidel into the question of neurotropism of the spirochæte pallida

(v. this JOURNAL, iii, 179), and on the diagnosis and treatment of early and asymptomatic neurosyphilis. (7) Hoffmann and Lyons examination of the cerebrospinal fluid for arsenic after spinal drainage and intravenous hypertonic saline injections. (8) Reports on the results of treatment by flumerin and tryparsamide.

A list is appended of fifty-five papers, to which reference has been made in the text.

J. G. GREENFIELD.

An Introduction to the Study of Colour Vision. By Sir J. HERBERT PARSONS, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., Ophthalmic Surgeon, University College Hospital, etc. Second edition. 1924. Cambridge: University Press. Pp. 323. Price 25s. net.

For the specialist this monograph provides a detailed survey and analysis of the various theories that have been held at one time or another in regard to colour vision, preceded by an examination of the chief facts of normal colour vision and of colour blindness. A difficult subject is handled with lucidity and in a logical and consecutive fashion. The author marshals the data obtained from a wide and scattered literature so magisterially as to impress the reader with his erudition, and if he does not give much indication to which of the various more or less conflicting theories he himself inclines, at least he provides all the material for a judgment. The monograph is written from an unbiassed standpoint and must take its place as an authoritative and peculiarly complete contribution to a long-vexed question.

Manual of Psychiatry. By PAUL E. BOWERS. 1924. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co. Pp. 365. Price 18s.

THIS volume is intended to give a systematic and comprehensive outline of the field of psychiatry and as a reference book for the student and practitioner. We cannot see that there is any feature in it which renders the book especially worthy of recommendation. The diagnostic groupings of psychotic symptoms are doubtless useful, yet this tends to give the student too much the idea that mental diseases are cut-and-dried entities. Detailed criticism is unnecessary, but we regret that the out-of-date conception of a special 'puerperal insanity' is still employed. We must note, too, the remarkable statement that "briefly, psychotherapy may be defined as the deliberate use of the power of benevolent suggestion in the treatment of disease" (page 311). A useful bibliography is added.

C. S. R.

The Purpose of Education. An Examination of Educational Problems in the Light of Recent Scientific Research. By ST. GEORGE LANE FOX PITT. New cheap edition, revised and enlarged. 1924. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 92. Price 4s. net.

THIS little book is now in its fourth edition, indicative of a growing apprecia-