Reviews and Notices of Books.

Aphasia and Kindred Disorders of Speech.—By HENRY HEAD. Cambridge University Press. 1926. Vol. I, pp. xvi+549; Vol. II, pp. xxxiii+430. Price £3 3s. 0d. net.

It would be quite impossible to overestimate the importance of these volumes. No short review such as the following can serve as more than the briefest of notices of their contents. For the psychologist they mark an epoch in the study of language and thought in relation to cerebral functioning.

In Volume I, after a brilliant historical introduction dealing especially with the work of Gall, Bouillaud, Broca, Hughlings Jackson, Marie, von Monakow, Liepmann, etc., the author proceeds to a description of his own methods of examination in dealing with aphasic cases, with full accounts of the special psychological tests he devised and applied for the accurate estimation of the various kinds of disturbances of "symbolic formulation and expression" in which aphasia consists.

He then explains his own well-known classification of these disturbances—verbal, syntactical, nominal, semantic, with detailed illustrations of each type of defect. He finds, on the anatomical side, a general tendency for these defects to be correlated with injury in the lower portion of the pre- and post-central convolutions and the parts lying beneath them, in the upper convolutions of the temporal lobe, in the supramarginal gyrus, and in the angular gyrus, respectively. The severity of the symptoms appears to vary with the depth and extent of the injury, but there is no evidence of point-to-point correspondence of physical and psychical disturbances. "There are no 'centres' for speaking, reading, writing, or other forms of behaviour comprised in the normal use of language."

Finally, in Part IV, he describes his important doctrine of "Vigilance," based on the fact that the central nervous system is capable of reacting as a whole or in part with different degrees of physiological efficiency, which varies with its vital condition. "The extent to which the activities of a particular portion of the central nervous system exhibit at any moment signs of integration and purposive adaptation indicates its vigilance." This leads up to an exceedingly interesting discussion of the theory and implications of cerebral localization, "illustrated by the facts of aphasia and kindred disorders of speech." The volume ends with a chapter on "Language and Thinking," and a final summary and conclusions set out succinctly in twenty-three short paragraphs.

In Volume II there are given detailed reports of clinical cases (gun-shot wounds of the head, etc.), which served as the empirical basis of the theory of Volume I. These reports, taken together with the descriptions of the special

psychological tests in Volume I, are invaluable and indispensable to research students in this field.

Of the numerous statements throughout this work which introduce new and challenging viewpoints in psychology, space only allows the quotation of the following: "Consciousness stands in the same relation to the vigilance of the higher centres as adapted and purposive reflexes to that of those of lower rank in the neural hierarchy. When vigilance is high, mind and body are poised in readiness to respond to any event external or internal." And again: "There is no more difficulty in understanding how an act of consciousness can affect a physiological process, than to comprehend how one reflex can control and modify another of a lower order" (Vol. I, p. 496). One feels that the metaphysical problem of the relation of mind and matter still remains unsolved. Nevertheless, Sir Henry Head, more than any other scientist, has brought us appreciably nearer its solution.

WILLIAM BROWN.

Types of Mind and Body. By E. MILLER, M.A., M.B. With 6 illustrations. Psyche Miniature Series. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd. 1926. Pp. 132. Price 2s. 6d. net.

IN this admirable little volume a condensed outline is given of recent work on the correlation between bodily constitution and reaction-type. The author follows more or less closely the investigations of Kretschmer, who has discovered an affinity between a body-build of the pyknic type and the cyclothymic or extroverted temperament on the one hand, and between a body-build of the asthenic type and the schizophrenic or introverted temperament, on the other. A study of the neurovegetative reaction fills the wide gap between the morphological and psychological, and provides an explanation for the differences in the affectivity which the two temperaments exhibit. The author suggests that the cyclothymic tends to be sympathicotonic, and the schizophrenic vagotonic.

This synthesis between the morphological, physiological, and psychological indicates directions in which investigations in relation to the biogenetic psychoses are likely to be fruitful in results. It makes it evident that the psychotic subject should be studied as a whole, and, since this is so essential, we feel that those who are commencing the study of psychiatry would find themselves well repaid by acquainting themselves with the views developed by Dr. Miller in this engagingly written book.

H. D.

Genius: Some Revaluations. By ARTHUR C. JACOBSON. New York: Greenberg, Publisher. 1926. Pp. 160. Price \$2.50.

GENIUS no doubt presents problems as much as does degeneracy or criminality, but we are apt to think less, or hear less, of them in view of the glory of achievement by which they are dimmed if not obscured. Men of genius are departures from the normal in an upward direction, supermen on a higher plane than that