

The thorough study of the herpes virus has made it possible to compare it with the strains of encephalitic virus isolated by Levaditi, Doerr, and others from cases of encephalitis lethargica. There appears to be no escape from the conclusion that these viruses are identical in nature, though not in virulence, with that of herpes. Crossed immunity experiments show that they are at least of the same family, and in experimental work they behave in an exactly similar manner. The only possible question then is, whether the patients who served as sources of the virus carried the virus of herpes as well as that of encephalitis lethargica. This still remains possible, although the recent work of Perdrau (which Levaditi does not mention) provides a strong argument against this theory. Levaditi states this objection fairly, and answers it frankly, if not quite convincingly. There are two main arguments in his favour; (1) the fact that of very many injections of cerebrospinal fluid or brain matter from cases other than encephalitic or herpetic, transmissible herpes virus has only been obtained once (by Flexner and Amoss from the cerebrospinal fluid of a case of neurosyphilis). Even the cerebrospinal fluid of patients suffering from herpes has only yielded transmissible virus to one pair of workers. (2) Encephalitic virus appears to have considerably greater tendency to affect the nervous system than herpetic virus. When inoculated on to the cornea it usually causes the death of the animal from encephalitis in seven to ten days, whereas with herpetic virus either no encephalitis occurs or it is less rapidly fatal.

Levaditi is less certain as to the experimental work on zoster, which has given very discordant results in different hands. The only fact which emerges from this confusion is that there is no demonstrable relationship between the virus of herpes and that of zoster. It seems indeed to be doubtful whether the virus of the latter disease exists in the vesicles at all.

The work of Goodpasture and Teague on the passage of the virus of herpes up the nerve trunks, probably via the axis cylinders, and its spread in the nervous system is reviewed and a short account of the morbid histology of the various lesions is given.

With the exception of the English work of 1925, to which reference has already been made, the book is fully documented and brings the subject fairly well up to date. In spite of the technical nature of the subject, the author has made it everywhere readable and in places extremely interesting.

J. G. GREENFIELD.

**Mind and Personality.** By WM. BROWN, M.D., D.Sc. London: University of London Press. 1927.

THIS book is a collection of more or less popular essays on a wide variety of psychological subjects. It is evidently not intended as the writer's ultimate contribution to the subject of the title, being didactic rather than philosophical in manner. Indeed the interest of the essays lies not so much in the discussion of personality (of which comparatively little is said) as in the ethical chapters,

and in the author's attempt to reconcile Freudian psychopathology with orthodox religious belief. The author claims to be successful in doing so, on the ground of his own intimate personal experience. His recognition of the reality of the world of values is opportune and his emphasis on this reality a useful corrective to the materialist attitude so commonly nourished (in spite of what Dr. Brown says) by psychoanalytic experience. It is a good thing, too, to find that Dr. Brown refuses to generalise psychopathological theories, by extending them to all normal instances of a certain class; for example, he refrains from identifying conscience as commonly understood with the pathological conscientiousness discovered by Freud. It is a pity, however, that in defending religious belief against the assaults of certain psychoanalysts Dr. Brown felt obliged to adduce the naive evidence that analysis did not shake his own religious belief, nor does it undermine that of his patients. One wonders also what he means by saying that in mental hospitals sex and religion are often closely united, but that it is then a matter of superstition rather than of true religion. Not many psychiatrists would agree that it is only in late and more chronic stages that mental diseases show pronounced and identifiable characteristics. Psychiatry is not quite so backward as that.

The book as a whole is a welcome attempt at the restitution of concepts of value to their due position in human psychology.

#### **An Introduction to Forensic Psychiatry in the Criminal Courts.**

By W. NORWOOD EAST, M.D. (Lond.), Medical Inspector, H.M. Prisons, England and Wales, etc. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1927. Pp. 381. Price 16s.

To the remark of the author in his preface, that at present there appears to be more interest in, and better appreciation of, the possible connexion between certain varieties of antisocial conduct and abnormal conditions of mind and body, all who deal with the mind diseased will subscribe. Acceptance of the possible interrelation must not, of course, be thought to provide a simplistic explanation of all wrong-doing, and it is precisely here that caution is necessary, for sweeping generalisations arise with painful ease from particular instances in actual life, where the connexion was unmistakable and impressive. No one is better fitted than Dr. Norwood East to indicate principles of approach to the difficulties of the question. His professional position is such that of necessity he has given weight alike to medical and to legal considerations, and his conclusions therefore are the more noteworthy.

The method followed in this vastly interesting volume is to illustrate the development of crime and of criminal tendencies in those who, medically speaking, are classifiable as belonging to a series of diseased groups, viz., mental defectives, cases of moral imbecility and moral insanity (so-called), paraphrenics and paranoiacs, organic demented, alcoholics, epileptics, psychotics and psychoneurotics, and, finally, those who appear to feign insanity. Clinical illustrations are supplied passim, no fewer than 81 being narrated in greater or

less detail. Possibly the most valuable chapter in the book is that on criminal responsibility, the debatable ground on which two great professions meet, too often only to quarrel, Summarising Dr. Norwood East's attitude in connexion with this problem, we may say that he holds that "miscarriages of justice" rarely or never occur, as an actual fact, that twenty years' experience does not enable him to recall a single case where conviction should have been replaced by acquittal on the ground of insanity, and that alterations in the law might really, in his opinion, result in its less elastic administration, with consequent hardship to the offender.

**Anatomie topographique du système nerveux central.** By G. GUILLAIN and I. BERTRAND. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1926. Pp. 322.

IN appearance and system this book resembles closely that of Foix and Nicolesco on the anatomy of the midbrain and basal ganglia. It does not enter into such minute detail as the latter, but covers a wider field. The plan of the book is to describe shortly the main points of the structure of the human cerebrospinal axis as seen both by the naked eye, and in stained sections. The latter are taken both in the horizontal and coronal planes, and are reproduced either from photographs or drawings of actual sections. The description is based on these figures and while it is more detailed than a mere description of the sections would be, it lacks the completeness of the more usual method of description. This method of presentation gives the neuropathologist valuable data for the study of his material but does not convey to the student of the anatomy of the nervous system a tridimensional conception of the structure of the brain. Probably both systems are needed in teaching. Certainly that used in the present volume is essential for the guidance of laboratory workers, and as such a guide the book should be of great service. Excellent illustrations and concise letterpress make it easy to use, and it appears to be more complete than any other anatomical text-book of the same kind.

A complete index both to letterpress and to illustrations would have still further enhanced the value of the volume as a book of reference, but unfortunately no index of any kind is given.

J. G. GREENFIELD.

**Malarial Psychoses and Neuroses; their Medical, Sociological and Legal Aspects.** By WILLIAM K. ANDERSON, M.D., F.R.F.P.S. (Glas.), Professor of Mental Diseases to the Anderson College of Medicine, Glasgow. etc. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1927. Pp. 395. Price 42s. net.

MEDICAL research seems to be reaching a stage when nothing short of individual monographs suffices for adequate description of the diseases constituting the totality of medicine; specialism and augmented knowledge force us either to resort to the encyclopædic or the monographic method for their expression.