Part II.—Reviews.

Aspects of Age, Life and Disease. By Sir HUMPHRY ROLLESTON, K.C.B., M.D., Hon.D.Sc., D.C.L., LL.D. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd. Demy 8vo. Pp. 304. Price 10*s.* 6*d.*

This is one of those pleasant books which succeed in presenting the fruits of much learning and literary research in as readable a fashion as one could wish. Sir Humphry Rolleston has the knack of putting together in a nicely cursive way all sorts of facts bearing upon a given topic, so that the joints have a look of organic and not merely of mechanical continuity. His style of writing is full of interesting surprises. It is like going to the theatre. You wonder by what possible ingenuity the playwright can make everything come conveniently together in the last act. So it is with many of Sir Humphry's sentences. They often meander in such a fashion that it seems they can never be brought to an end; but with a phrase and a few commas, the trick is done.

The papers of which the volume is composed are on widely various subjects, but of singularly sustained interest. He writes on old age, holidays, tobacco, success, careers (orthodox and quack), physic and literature (poetry and prose), diseases in medical men, and famous people who suffered from diseases which may have changed the course of history. We learn how piles lost Waterloo, and how the vesical calculus of another Napoleon prevented a *coup d'état.*

It is one of those books which can be picked up at any time, opened at any page, and read with amusement and profit, so full is it of interesting things. Sir Humphry has a nice eye for a good quotation. Here is Dr. Johnson's remark to a valetudinarian clergyman: "Do not be like the spider, man, and spin conversation incessantly out of thine own bowels."

It is a book for the bedside; and we can recommend it even for a holiday week-end. R. D. GILLESPIE.

Anatomical, Phylogenetic and Clinical Studies on the Central Nervous System. By B. B. BROUWER. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Co., 1927 [Baillière, Tindall & Cox]. Demy 8vo. Pp. xii + 67. 16 Figures. Price 11*s.* 6*d.*

This little book contains the three Herter Lectures, given by Brouwer at the Johns Hopkins University in 1926. To a great extent based on the eminent author's own observations, they are all of the greatest interest—particularly the first one.

This first lecture deals with "The Projection of the Retina in the Brain." First the two rival theories—that of Henschens and that of von Monakow—are briefly reviewed. Then investigations are reported bearing on the relation between the retina and the external geniculate body in various animals, including monkeys (which in respect of their visual paths, as in other respects, resemble man more than do other animals).

The findings may be summarized thus: At the ventral border of each external geniculate body there is a small part for monocular vision; the greater part of the geniculate body serves binocular vision, the upper halves of the retinæ corresponding to the medial halves of the geniculate body, the lower retinal halves to the external halves. The macular fibres are sharply defined and occupy a comparatively large area in the centre (the figure given shows a somewhat different localization, viz. superior and lateral to the peripheral fibres, *cf.* Fig. 5). Within the macular fibres, too, there is a distinct localization, the superior macular halves corresponding to the medial geniculate fibres, the inferior macular halves to the lateral geniculate area. The interesting technique of the investigations is clearly set forth.

Finally the author advances the opinion that the visual area in the cortex ought to be divided into binocular and monocular areas, and that the macular region must have a very extensive representation in the cortex.

The second lecture deals with the "Pathology of Sensibility." It gives a survey of current ideas regarding the pathways of different kinds of sensibility. The author has investigated the trigeminal nucleus in a large number of animals, the spinal trigeminal root being considered the homologue of the posterior grey horns of the spinal cord, the frontal trigeminal root the homologue of the nuclei of Goll and of Burdach. From these investigations he is led to formulate the following conclusions: Fishes have only the *vital* form for sensibility ("palæo" type). As soon as life on land begins, new demands on sensibility are made; the *gnostic* sensibility is developed, and new pathways serving this are formed (neo-sensibility.)

The author also deals with errors in diagnosis of the level of spinal cord tumours (one misses any mention of Elsberg's interesting communications on this important topic), and with the practical value of Sicard's lipiodol-X-ray examination.

The third lecture is entitled "Significance of Phylogenetic Studies." First a review is given of the two modes of dividing the cerebellum, *viz.*, the older one of Edinger (vermis=palæo-cerebellum, and hemispheres=neo-cerebellum) and the more recent one of Bolk. Anatomo-clinical and myelogenetic observations in favour of Edinger's mode of division are recorded. The author suggests a similar division of the inferior olives into an older (palæo-) and a newer (neo-) part.

Finally the author deals with the important and interesting question of different vulnerability of the different paths, adducing many interesting observations from the pathology of disseminated

sclerosis. Affirming the view that the latest developed paths are the first to suffer, the author believes that he can in some measure account for that regularity in symptomatology which we find in the majority of cases in spite of the irregularity in the distribution of the lesions in this disease.

On this point I thoroughly agree with the author, and have for many years in my clinical teaching expressed similar views. Only I believe that besides a *structural* or anatomical vulnerability (corresponding to O. Vogt's "pathoclise") one has also to deal with a "*functional* vulnerability," for I have several times seen cases where a transverse lesion of the spinal cord histologically presented the same intensity in all the parts of the cord, and yet the functions of the different paths had suffered to a very different degree.*

In one detail I am compelled to make a reservation: When (quoting Cattaneo and Bychowski) the author states that the abdominal reflexes do not appear till some months after birth, this is too sweeping a statement. The abdominal reflexes are inconstant and sometimes asymmetrical in very young infants; but I have myself in a series of 28 cases under seventeen days old elicited abdominal reflexes in 9 cases (as recorded in table on pp. 48–49 in my monograph on the abdominal reflexes, 1918). In a few other minor points one may not entirely agree with the author, but these are of little importance, and altogether this book is to be strongly recommended both to the beginner as very clear and instructive, and to the older neurologist as very interesting, giving, as it does, in a very readable form the results of many of the investigations of one of the most prominent research-workers in neurology of to-day.

G. H. MONRAD-KROHN.

Understanding Human Nature. By ALFRED ADLER. Translated by WALTER BÉRAN WOLFE. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1929. Demy 8vo. Pp. 286. Price 12*s.* 6*d.*

This is a more complete exposition of Dr. Adler's theory of individual psychology than his first work published fifteen years ago. In seeking to establish his theory that the important factor determining behaviour is not infantile sexuality (Freud), but the "will to power," which, as the masculine side of human nature, is in continual conflict with the passive or feminine side, Adler has much to say that is interesting and valuable. His theory is valid up to a point, and is elucidated and confirmed by the description of the cases of difficulty in life he has selected. But as the critical student proceeds beyond the first three chapters he will feel that Adler's conception of the mind, or soul as it is called, is exceedingly limited. Differentiation of human beings into two types, "those who know more concerning their unconscious life than the average, and those who know less," is little more helpful than it is reasonable.

* In my *Clinical Examination of the Nervous System* I have briefly indicated the order of "functional vulnerability" of the different pathways of the spinal cord (cf. p. 180 in the fourth edition).