

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 10s. 6d.

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 11s. 6d.

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.