

more important and standard works which it is essential for the student to read.

The book deserves continued success, and we hope that the author may one day embody his erudite knowledge of the subject in a work planned on a larger scale.

A. WALK.

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**Year-Book of Neurology and Psychiatry, 1933.** By G. BASSOE, M.D., and F. G. EBAUGH, M.D. Chicago : The Year-Book Publishers, 1934. Pp. 471. Price 10s. 6d.

In this year's edition of the Year-Book, psychiatry is given a larger share of the available space, being allotted 142 pages out of 450. A somewhat undue proportion of the articles abstracted deal with generalities, and though useful as presentations of the psychiatric point of view, add little to our knowledge of the subject.

The section on mental deficiency consists of only four abstracts ; while in the field of psychopathology and psychotherapy, contributions published in psycho-analytic and individual-psychological journals are almost completely ignored. Altogether the selection of articles strikes one as somewhat haphazard, and the book cannot be relied on as a trustworthy guide to the work carried out during the year. It is particularly deficient in abstracts from continental European sources.

The grouping of the abstracts has, in many places, been carelessly done ; abstracts dealing with the same subject are often found separated by others on widely different topics.

Although there is room for much improvement in these respects, the book is a most useful publication in that it brings together in handy form a good deal of material not readily accessible otherwise. Examination candidates should certainly make a point of perusing it and its predecessors for the last two or three years.

A. WALK.

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**An Introduction to the Study of the Nervous System.** By E. E. HEWER, D.Sc., and G. M. SANDES, F.R.C.S., M.B., B.S.Lond. Second edition. London : William Heineman (Medical Books), Ltd., 1933. Pp. 147 + xiv. Price 21s.

There are so many excellent text-books on the anatomy of the nervous system that one always wonders if so many are really required. Frankly, any new text-book on the subject must seem redundant, unless the author or authors present their material in a very much better form than others have done, and supply us with diagrams and illustrations of unusual excellence. This is the second edition of this book, the first having appeared in 1929, so that there must be a demand for it. The illustrations and diagrams are for the most part good ; some of the diagrams are very good indeed. The diagram showing the relative position of the motor and sensory tracts passing through the internal capsule and the midbrain is particularly good, though simple ; that showing the basal aspect of the brain, with the cranial nerves displayed in red, is very striking, and will certainly give the beginner a much clearer idea of their relations than any other diagram we remember seeing. To provide sixty-five diagrams for one hundred and thirty pages of print is a very generous allowance, and one that the student should appreciate. Many of them are new.

It is very doubtful if any useful purpose is served by including brief descriptions of histological methods; a small but detailed handbook, such as Anderson's, is of so very much more use.

The chapter dealing with the connections of the corpus striatum is well done, and we are glad to see the work of Le Gros Clark incorporated. Under the heading of "Ventriculography" we should like to have seen some mention of the value of this method in demonstrating atrophy of the cerebrum. We are very glad indeed to see a chapter on conditioned reflexes included.

We have found the book most refreshing and can thoroughly recommend it.  
G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

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**Aids to Neurology.** By E. A. BLAKE PRITCHARD, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1934. Pp. 376. Price 5s.

Dr. Pritchard has produced what must surely be one of the best of the numerous volumes of the "Aids" Series. In his preface he says that "completeness of detail has been made subordinate to the presentation of significant facts in reasonable perspective". This principle, often neglected in similar books, is here admirably carried out, and the orderly grouping of the various conditions described, together with the constant application of physiological facts, are most pleasing.

A special section is devoted to the integrative function of the cerebral cortex, and throughout the conception of generalized as opposed to localized cortical function is impressed on the reader. Hence the discussion of apraxia and aphasia proceeds unhampered by forced ideas of localization, and is entirely on modern lines.

There is also a chapter on the functions and disorders of the autonomic nervous system, and such conditions as vaso-vagal and paroxysmal vaso-motor attacks, intestinal disturbances, etc., are given a place. The author's views on the ætiology of these conditions are very guarded, and he makes no mention of the influence of mental factors in these cases.

One or two minor points may be criticized. Alzheimer's disease is stated to result from rapidly progressive disease of the cerebral arteries—a view not in accordance with that of the majority of authorities on the subject. The allied condition, Pick's disease, is not mentioned, though another syndrome of the same name (otherwise known as the Niemann-Pick disease) is given a place.

We are glad to see that no attempt has been made to include the psychoneuroses, and that these have, presumably, been allotted to the companion volume on psychiatry.

The book is said to be intended for the use of "students in the early years of their medical training". We are sure that it may be read with profit by many who have long passed that stage.  
A. WALK.

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**Studies in Blood Formation.** By T. D. POWER, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd., 1934. Pp. 124. Price 8s. 6d.

Whenever psychiatrists venture to write books on other subjects than mental disorders they must expect criticism, and there is no doubt that this small book will receive it.

The book is based on the writer's experience of the treatment of mental