

**Pathology of the Nervous System.** By J. HENRY BIGGART, M.D. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1936. Pp. xvi + 335. Price 12s. 6d.

The author, who is Pathologist to the Scottish Asylums' Board and Neuro-pathologist at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, has provided us with a book which has as a subtitle "A Student's Introduction", and for this purpose we think the book is excellent. We should, however, have liked, considering that the author is in charge of the Laboratories of the Scottish Asylums' Board, to have seen rather more space devoted to the pathology of mental diseases, especially as the book is stated to have grown out of lectures given to those preparing for the Diploma in Psychiatry.

The illustrations, 204 in number, are extraordinarily good. We would like to have seen a good illustration of the spirochætes in the brain in general paralysis included. (Spirochætes can be well demonstrated in the cortex by Jahnke's method; we have found the results very satisfactory.) We cannot see the value of including an illustration of a brain from an early case of general paresis with only a slight degree of atrophy; it is just the same as thousands of other brains not from general paralytics.

The chapter on the cerebro-spinal fluid is very short—too short to be of any real value to a student. It is surprising to find in the chapter devoted to vascular lesions and the brain no mention of the work of Pickworth on the study of the brain capillaries and his method of showing regional localization.

In discussing pellagra we think the author might have mentioned its occurrence in mental hospitals in this country, where, of course, the question of any relationship with the eating of maize does not arise. The work of Watson on pellagra is worth mention. We think a fuller description of the theories of the formation of senile plaques might have been given (there are twelve!). At the same time, when mentioning Alzheimer's disease, we should have liked to see some mention of Pick's disease. The candidate for the Diploma is going to have a very, very scanty knowledge of these two presenile conditions if he depends on this book. Less space might have been devoted to the tumours of the nervous system and more to Pick and Alzheimer's diseases.

In discussing amaurotic family idiocy we wish the author had avoided the use of the word "amentia" and used the word "oligophrenia" instead.

These remarks apply more to the book when regarded as a manual for medical students. The candidate for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine, in England at any rate, requires considerably more than this book provides.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

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**The Psychology of Human Behaviour.** By JOSEPH HARRY GRIFFITHS, Ph.D. New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1935. Pp. xxi + 515. Price \$2.50.

The author is Professor of Psychology in Lawrence College, and the book is based on his lecturing experience to elementary students.

The book is really excellent. At the end of each chapter is a very good summary, together with a number of examination questions, a bibliography, and a very ample course of further reading. The author gives very free acknowledgment of the various books and journals from which he has borrowed figures and quotations.