

Part III.—Reviews.

Physiology of the Nervous System. By J. F. FULTON. London: Humphrey Milford. Oxford Medical Publications, 1938. Pp. xv + 675. Price 25s.

This is a truly remarkable book, which should be read once a year by all medical officers in mental hospitals. It contains the best account of the experimental physiology of the nervous system we possess, and should prove invaluable for candidates for the D.P.M. Each chapter has a brief historical note at the beginning.

Emphasis is placed on the modern view that the autonomic division of the nervous system can no longer be regarded as a purely peripheral system, but is rather an organized division of the central nervous system.

The author points out that subjects such as the study of conditioned reflexes and electrical reactions of the brain have been omitted on purpose. He does not seem impressed by the Berger rhythm and its various developments with which so many workers are at present occupied. This we think is a great pity, but possibly when the second edition appears electro-encephalography will have come into its own.

The book is not meant to be a text-book of clinical neurology, but deals with physiology, so that the clinician may feel some disappointment which is really quite unnecessary. It is thoroughly up to date, but we hope that the author will be able to produce a new edition every two or three years, and so keep up the very high standard he has set himself. There is a bibliography of 1,341 items.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The 1938 Mental Measurements Year-Book. Edited by OSCAR K. BUROS. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1938. Pp. xiv + 415. \$3.00.

The clinical tester, faced with the multitude of tests that have been devised, is often at a loss to know which to choose. His task is made less formidable by the frank evaluative reviews of tests contained in this book. These reviews are divided amongst 133 different test users and potential test users who appraise each test or test book and discuss its limitations.

There are six sections, which comprise reviews of mental tests, mental measurement books, and research and statistical books, reports of test programmes and indexes to periodicals and to publishers.

The book is one that should be in every test clinic, and in view of its bulk it is to be hoped that the critical reviews will, as the editor says in the preface, encourage "authors and publishers to publish fewer and better tests".

J. M. BLACKBURN.