

break into two. Further, two such cells would repel one another. On the other hand, if the diffusion is chiefly into the cell, then it should not divide but should attract similar cells, and if the similar cells cannot move, then long filaments will tend to spread and bridge the gap between them. This latter case is obviously pertinent to the growth and form of neurones. The applications are too many to be described in detail here.

Part II is described adequately by its title, and is of interest chiefly to the specialist.

Part III is perhaps the least satisfactory part of the book. It is an attempt to apply mathematics to conditioned reflexes, discrimination, *Gestalt* problems, rational thinking, etc. The method of approach is chiefly to hypothesize some particular type of neuronic circuit, specially devised for the occasion, and then to show by the known elementary properties of excitation and inhibition (from Part II) that such a circuit will have properties something like those of the conditioned reflex, etc. The whole method is of very doubtful validity, or even advantage. It is easy enough, given special circuits, to show that they have special properties. But this completely avoids the basic problem, which is to discover why the neurones do not form merely chaotic circuits in their arrangements. The psychology of Part III must be considered superficial and the mathematics therefore trivial.

Nevertheless much of the book is important and substantial.

W. R. ASHBY.

Diseases of the Nervous System. By F. M. R. WALSHE, *O.B.E.*, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Second edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1941. Pp. xvi + 325. Price 12s. 6d.

The fact that a second edition of this useful book has been called for within one year is good testimony to its popularity. A number of small additions have been made, the chapter on intracranial tumour has been recast, pituitary diseases have been given more room, and additions have been made to the chapters on acute infections of the nervous systems, on head and spinal injuries, and on lesions of the spinal nerves.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Psychology and Mental Disorders for Nurses. By J. W. FISHER, M.R.C.S., D.P.M. London: Edward Arnold & Co., 1941. Pp. viii + 120. Price 4s.

This small book is based on the author's Adlerian views, but one cannot avoid the conclusion that it is just a little bit above the head of the average nurse. To read the table of contents will frighten many would-be readers of the book. The book will in many ways supplement the "Red Book" of the R.M.P.A., but it covers the same ground and may prove to be quite superfluous when the new edition of the Red Book appears. We dislike the term "mental syphilis"; there cannot be syphilis of the mind!

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