

## Part II.—Reviews.

---

**Science: Its Method and Its Philosophy.** By G. BURNISTON BROWN.  
London: George Allan & Unwin, 1950. 15s.

This small book illustrates the difficulty of conveying to an educated public the philosophical basis of science. The author fully succeeds in three essays treating the life, work and historical background of some great scientific thinkers from Aristotle to J. S. Mill. These he introduces by a chapter on learning of animals giving a kind of phylogenesis of science; and he makes his exit with a Dialogue in the style of Galileo that leaves most questions unanswered. In the two chapters on modern science itself, his anecdotal and sometimes facile exposition shows its weakness; the result of pleasantly presented tit-bits of knowledge on the uninitiated seems to the reviewer very doubtful. Psychiatrists will especially enjoy the clear and readable chapter on "symbol situations," i.e. on words, definitions and the role of language in philosophy of science.

W. MAYER-GROSS.

**Electroencephalography.** By W. GREY WALTER, DENIS HILL, W. A. COBB, D. WHITTERIDGE, G. D. GREVILLE and M. E. HEPPENSTALL.  
London: Macdonald, 1950. Pp. 438. Price 78s.

This excellent volume on a very difficult and technical subject is more than a text-book on electroencephalography—it is a study in the electrophysiology of the brain considered in its widest sense.

The information supplied covers a very wide ground and apart from the technical side of the E.E.G., which is covered most completely by Dr. Grey Walter, chapters are provided on physiology, biochemistry and pharmacology, before the reader is taken to the application of the E.E.G. in practice.

Chapters are provided on normal rhythms, on epilepsy, intracranial tumours, cerebral trauma and psychiatry.

While this book might be regarded by the electroencephalographer as an elementary text-book, to the practising psychiatrist and neurologist it is an indispensable work.

We have often stressed the fact, too often overlooked, that our work as psychiatrists is based on a wide knowledge not only of medicine, but of the fundamental subject of physiology. This book, therefore, is one to be faced and read by all psychiatrists; they will be wiser men, although no doubt sadder at finding that their training may not have fitted them to understand much that is written in this fine production.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

**Freud: Dictionary of Psychoanalysis.** Edited by NANDOR FODOR and FRANK GAYNOR. New York: Philosophical Library, 1950. Pp. 208.  
\$3.75.

This valuable little book is not a dictionary in the usual sense of the term. If one just wishes to know the meaning of a word used in psychoanalysis one can be served much better by other available dictionaries. This book, on the contrary, is a collection, arranged alphabetically, of excerpts with references, from the writings of Freud. Nowhere in the book is the work of any other psychoanalyst mentioned. The first word of the title is therefore accurate.