

**Year-Book of Neurology, Psychiatry and Endocrinology, 1934.** Edited by H. H. REESE, H. A. PASKIND and E. L. SEVRINGHAUS. Chicago: Year-Book Publishers, Inc., 1935. Pp. 782. Price 12s. 6d.

This well-known compendium of selected abstracts from the literature appears this year in enlarged form and under new editorship. The pages on the endocrine glands which formerly formed part of the neurological section have been expanded into an independent section of over 250 pages. This does not include purely physiological research, for from considerations of space the editors have omitted all articles without a definite clinical bearing. Work on the syndromes associated with disorder of the parathyroids and of the adrenal cortex occupies the largest amount of space; but the recognition of the pituitary as the "master gland" of the body leads to the inclusion of all but the pineal and thymus under subsections of a chapter on the anterior lobe. The only paper of direct psychiatric application in this section is one on cases of involuntional depression treated by theelin with good results.

In neurology the editors single out for special mention the study of the central vegetative centres and pathways, further experiments on the paths of infection in poliomyelitis, and W. F. Petersen's monumental work on meteorological influences in the causation of disease. Much of psychiatric interest is included in this section; there are studies on constitutional types, exhaustive neuroses, treatment of general paralysis by electropyraxia and results of treatment by other methods, and a variety of papers on epilepsy and migraine.

The psychiatric section proper is the shortest, but a wide range of topics is covered. Among these are: Improved methods in the prolonged narcosis treatment, mental states following head injuries and new conceptions of "traumatic neurosis", cardio-vascular efficiency and metabolism in schizophrenia, and reports of several cases of Pick's disease and Alzheimer's disease, including a familial type of the latter.

The articles selected appear to be taken from a wider field than formerly. We are glad to see this Journal well represented. However, the number of European journals quoted is so small that it is difficult to believe that the editors can really have satisfied themselves that they have included what is most significant in the year's literature. Some of the papers seem to be of trivial importance, and the chapters on the psychoneuroses, mental deficiency and criminology are obviously much too scanty. The year-book cannot therefore be recommended to the research worker as a trustworthy guide to the literature, but the ordinary psychiatrist will find in it information throwing much light on practical problems and many useful suggestions as to prognosis and treatment.

A. WALK.

---

**Diet in the Modern Hospital.** By JULIET DE K. WHITSED. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1934. Pp. 220. Price 5s.

The author of this useful little volume is Dietician to the Johannesburg General Hospital, and it may be said at once that the publication of a work such as this provides ample justification for the creation of such posts on the staffs of hospitals and institutions. The first thirty pages are given up to a series of outlined lectures on dietetics suitable for nurses or lay persons who may be called on to perform nursing duties; they may be studied directly, or will serve even better as a basis for actual lectures to be delivered by the physician. The remainder of the book contains a large number of special diets, arranged in sections in alphabetical order of conditions treated; these