

We think that to consider the Temporary Treatment section of the Mental Treatment Act of 1930 as unusable is wrong. It was only meant to apply to a small percentage of cases, and so it does. The Act does *not* require "two doctors' certificates," but two "recommendations," which is a very different thing.

To say that "certification should be used as a last resort" is a curious statement to make in appealing for *early* treatment, as often it is the only means of getting the patient into hospital, where he will be able to obtain adequate treatment. Far too often certification is left until the patient is almost beyond treatment. A much greater use of certification would be a much greater therapeutic aid. If any stigma does attach itself to certification (which we doubt), it is not due to the existence of the certificate, but to the fact that the patient in question is "queer" and has to "go away," and surely as a rule the whole parish knows all about it long before the certificate is signed.

In the section devoted to glandular therapy some thirty lines are devoted to oestrin and testosterone. This is quite useless. No mention is made of the importance of estimating the quantity and identity of the sex hormones in the urine before any treatment is instituted. The whole subject of the relation of sex hormones to the personality is most important and very complicated, and well merits a long chapter to itself.

There is an inadequate bibliography and the proof correction seems to leave much to be desired, *i.e.* Sargent in the bibliography is Sargent in the letterpress, C. W. Fleming would appear to be the reviewer whose initials are G. W. T. H., and Lewis Aubrey in the bibliography would most likely be Lewis, Aubrey; and surely Guttman, E. Mayer Gross, W. represents Guttman, E., and Mayer-Gross, W.!

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Nineteen-Forty Mental Measurements Yearbook. Edited by O. K. BUROS. New Jersey: The Mental Measurements Yearbook, 1941. Pp. xxiii + 674. Price \$6.

This large volume is crammed with useful information on mental testing of all kinds, achievement, character and personality, intelligence, vocations, together with chapters on testing in mathematics, science, languages, social studies, reading, and fine arts.

There is a separate section quoting reviews of psychological books from the various psychological journals. This is a most useful section of the book, for here we have gathered together really sound opinions (in many cases giving the author of the opinion) on a large variety of books. We can easily find out what a variety of different schools of thought think of any particular book.

This excellent book should be in the possession of everyone dealing with mental testing in any shape or form.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Practical Neurological Diagnosis. By R. GLEN SPURLING, M.D. Second edition. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1940. Pp. xii + 239. Price 22s.

This small book is intended primarily for students and as such it is excellent. It is very lucidly written and well illustrated. It is divided into three parts, dealing with neurological examination, cerebro-spinal fluid and Roentgen diagnosis. The third part dealing with Roentgen diagnosis is very good, and

although the writer apologizes for its being of rather an elementary type, it is nevertheless very well done and fully illustrated, occupying some fifty pages.

We think it is a pity that a similar chapter was not added on electroencephalography. This subject is so much to the fore in modern work that we feel that both the student and the general practitioner would appreciate a chapter telling them what it all means.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Mental Disease and Social Welfare. By HORATIO M. POLLOCK. New York: State Hospitals Press, 1941. Pp. 237. Price \$2.

The sixteen chapters of this book are devoted to various social aspects of mental illness and most of them have previously been read or published elsewhere.

The most interesting chapter (written with the help of Dr. B. Malzberg), and one which has not previously been published, is that dealing with the expectation of mental disease, not only at birth, but at every age of life. The life table method of analysis is used and the data are segregated by sex and nativity. The statistics apply to the State of New York and show that approximately 4.5 per cent. of persons born may, under existing conditions, develop mental disease and become patients in the hospitals for mental disease.

An interesting fact mentioned in Chapter XII is that the results of metrazol treatment of dementia praecox raise grave doubts as to its use. Insulin is clearly superior.

In his review of thirty years of alcoholic mental disease the author asks four questions, and if the answers to these four questions are in the affirmative, then the drink habit should be encouraged; if not it should be strongly discouraged. The questions are:

- (1) If the taxes paid by the liquor traffic are not largely from the earnings of the poor?
- (2) Does the drink habit make workers in all occupations more reliable and efficient?
- (3) Does the free use of alcohol promote health and good citizenship?
- (4) Does alcohol lessen crime and accidents?

The author has undoubtedly served a useful purpose in gathering together these reliable statistical studies so that laymen in particular can have easy access to them.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Mathematical Biophysics. By NICHOLAS RASHEVSKY. Chicago, 1939. Pp. 340. Price 18s.

The book is divided into three parts, entitled: (1) Mathematical biophysics of vegetative growth, (2) Mathematical biophysics of excitation and conduction in peripheral nerves, (3) Mathematical biophysics of the central nervous system. Over half of its pages are concerned with neurophysiology. We may state at once that the author is clearly an expert mathematician.

The first part of the book is the most satisfactory. Here the author discusses the thermodynamic consequences of the hypothesis that a cell is a metabolizing entity, i.e. that it is continuously producing and absorbing chemical substances. A cell will set up gradients of the concentrations of substances, and these gradients will produce osmotic and other known effects. He shows that even so simple a hypothesis as this will explain adequately many known facts in cellular physiology. Thus, he shows that a cell, if most of the diffusion is outwards, must become unstable after exceeding a given size, and must then