

Part II.—Reviews.

Genetic Neurology. Edited by P. WEISS. University of Chicago Press, 1950. Pp. 239. Price 37s. 6d.

This volume presents a series of chapters written by members of the first International Conference on the Development, Growth and Regeneration of the Nervous System held in March, 1949, at the University of Chicago, sponsored by the International Union of Biological Sciences and financed partly by UNESCO and partly by the Rockefeller Foundation. The subject matter as a whole is covered by the introduction of a new subject-title—Genetic Neurology.

As is to be expected a great deal of the subject-matter is severely technical, but it does give an excellent picture of present-day neuroembryology, using the term in its widest sense, and extending from spectroscopic studies on nerve cells to regeneration in human peripheral nerves, from motion pictures showing the movements of neurones and neuroglia in tissue cultures to the reflexes of mammalian embryos and fetuses.

Although highly specialized, the book is very readable and presents an excellent summary of our knowledge of a rapidly developing field.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Transmission of Nerve Impulses at Neuroeffector Junctions and Peripheral Synapses. By A. ROSENBLUETH. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 1951. Pp. 325, and 98 figures. Price 48s.

This is an extremely well-documented and careful account of the chemical transmission at the junctions of motor nerves and striated muscles and at the synapses of autonomic ganglia.

The author is of the opinion that there is no satisfactory alternative to the chemical theory of synaptic transmission. He looks on acetylcholine as the essential transmitter with potassium ions as important adjuvants, and at the same time the spike potential determines the release of acetylcholine.

The book is divided into two sections, the first dealing with transmission at autonomic neuroeffector junctions, and the second with transmission at peripheral synapses, and is a most important contribution to our knowledge of the physiological action of acetylcholine.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Dementia Praecox or the Group of the Schizophrenias. By EUGEN BLEULER. Translated by JOSEPH ZINKIN. London: Allen & Unwin, 1951. Pp. 548. Price 63s.

This volume is a translation of Bleuler's large monograph on dementia praecox which appeared in 1911 as a volume of Aschaffenburg's *Handbook*. It is a pity that it has had to wait nearly forty years before being translated into English. Those of us who read Bleuler's textbook when it appeared in the 1920's were much impressed with his views, and particularly those on a clinical condition which was so often neither a dementia nor precocious in its origin and which he called the "schizophrenias," a term which has come into almost universal use to-day. This rather bulky volume of more than five hundred pages well repays the time spent in wading through it even forty