

There follows a defence of Mesmer and two pages of hints on hypnotism and suggestion, concluding with a fervid exhortation :

“Select your words. What you say will often make or mar the patient. Remember that the patient sees everything *through different eyes* to that of the specialist. Therefore again I say, SELECT YOUR WORDS, RETAIN YOUR DIGNITY, REVEAL YOUR GREAT HEART, SHOW YOUR AFFECTION, IMPRESS UPON YOUR PATIENT YOUR SINCERITY OF PURPOSE, remembering that every word you utter has untold power : EVERY WORD HAS MAGIC POWER.”

Suitable bathos is achieved after this by a section on “Occupational Therapy,” in which the subject is dismissed in exactly six of the baldest possible lines.

In the last thirty pages legal forms, neurological diagrams, the deaf and dumb alphabet, posological tables and a particularly naïve “list of psycho-analytic symbols” jostle each other in an endeavour to make the book all-inclusive. Here are also to be found the various foreign classifications of mental disorders collected for the use of the Clinical Psychiatry Sub-Committee of the Association, and reprinted (without permission or acknowledgment) from the pages of this Journal.

It is difficult to find anything to say in the book's favour. We can only hope that overseas and foreign reviewers will not take its intellectual level as in any way indicative of that of British psychiatry. It is a pity that one of the most eminent members of our specialty should have been misled into allowing his name to be associated with such a worthless production.

A. WALK.

Essentials of Psychiatry. By GEORGE W. HENRY, M.D. With a chapter on Psychiatric Nursing by ADELE POSTON, R.N. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Co., 1931. Medium 8vo. Pp. xiv + 304. Price 21s.

The second edition of Henry's *Essentials of Psychiatry* is in many ways better than the first edition, but there is still room for improvement.

The subject of occupational therapy, which, after all, is well developed in the United States, might have had a chapter to itself, it is such a very important part of the attack on the vicious circle which we have come to know as a mental disorder. One has only to see the effect on an epileptic ward to realize the importance of work—and constructive work at that. The work must be such that the individual regains his self-respect.

The space devoted to hydrotherapy is much too limited. The Plombières douche and the whole subject of colonic lavage is deserving of considerable attention. The statement that “sedatives are occasionally given in emergencies and to extremely restless and agitated when all other forms of therapy fail” is not consistent with the general trend of ideas on treatment in this country. In many borderline cases in which an individual is trying hard to struggle against the trials and stresses of modern life, a small dose of sedative daily is often a sheet-anchor which succeeds in keeping the patient from a breakdown.

The most unsatisfactory chapter in the book is one entitled “The Psychopathology of the Normal”. To include “psychopaths” amongst the “normal”,

wide though that term may be, is surely not a sound procedure. No one with a knowledge of the work of the individuals cited in the chapter would for a moment include them amongst the normal. Strindberg is probably the last person in the world to be described as normal! Apart from these shortcomings the book fulfils a definite purpose in providing a well-balanced epitome of what is after all, an extremely big subject. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

A Text-Book of Neuro-Anatomy. By ALBERT KUNTZ, Ph.D., M.D. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1931. Medium 8vo. Pp. xii + 359. Illustrations 197. Price \$5.50.

With such fine text-books as "Tilney & Riley", "Ransom" and "Quain" available, it really is rather difficult to see why yet another should be added to the list. Notwithstanding this, Albert Kuntz has written an extremely sensible text-book of neuro-anatomy. It is not too big; in fact it might well have been a little bigger. The student who wishes a succinct account of what is after all an unpopular subject will be pleased with the material as presented. The illustrations are a particularly good feature of the book; many of them are quite new. The development and morphology of the cerebral hemispheres is particularly well done in the space allotted to it. We think that the importance of this aspect of neuro-anatomy is usually very much under-estimated, and we are glad to see a comparatively full account of it, even at the risk of upsetting the balance of the book looked at as a whole. The student's work is made much easier if he has a sound foundation of comparative anatomy and morphology to build on. The book is extremely well printed, and is a worthy companion to our other volumes dealing with the anatomy of the nervous system. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Baillière's Synthetic Anatomy. Part X: The Brain. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1932. 9 × 7½ in. Plates 12. Price 3s.

The anatomy of the brain is quite difficult enough for the average student without adding confusion, which, we fear, these drawings will do. There are no short cuts to the structure of the brain, and there is also no doubt that the dissection must be carried out methodically in three dimensions if the brain is to be understood. We cannot see any benefit in trying to do two dimensions at once; it certainly will not ease the task of the beginner, and even one well versed in neuro-anatomy who wishes to refresh his knowledge will find it "heavy going". G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Mental Deficiency Due to Birth Injuries. By E. A. DOLL, Ph.D., W. M. PHELPS, M.D., and RUTH T. MELCHER, M.A. New York: Macmillan, 1932. Pp. 275. Price 24s.

That birth injury may act as a cause of mental deficiency has long been known: and following the present tendency to unload the sins of the