

Pathology of the Nervous System. By J. HENRY BIGGART, M.D. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1936. Pp. xvi + 335. Price 12s. 6d.

The author, who is Pathologist to the Scottish Asylums' Board and Neuro-pathologist at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, has provided us with a book which has as a subtitle "A Student's Introduction", and for this purpose we think the book is excellent. We should, however, have liked, considering that the author is in charge of the Laboratories of the Scottish Asylums' Board, to have seen rather more space devoted to the pathology of mental diseases, especially as the book is stated to have grown out of lectures given to those preparing for the Diploma in Psychiatry.

The illustrations, 204 in number, are extraordinarily good. We would like to have seen a good illustration of the spirochætes in the brain in general paralysis included. (Spirochætes can be well demonstrated in the cortex by Jahnke's method; we have found the results very satisfactory.) We cannot see the value of including an illustration of a brain from an early case of general paresis with only a slight degree of atrophy; it is just the same as thousands of other brains not from general paralytics.

The chapter on the cerebro-spinal fluid is very short—too short to be of any real value to a student. It is surprising to find in the chapter devoted to vascular lesions and the brain no mention of the work of Pickworth on the study of the brain capillaries and his method of showing regional localization.

In discussing pellagra we think the author might have mentioned its occurrence in mental hospitals in this country, where, of course, the question of any relationship with the eating of maize does not arise. The work of Watson on pellagra is worth mention. We think a fuller description of the theories of the formation of senile plaques might have been given (there are twelve!). At the same time, when mentioning Alzheimer's disease, we should have liked to see some mention of Pick's disease. The candidate for the Diploma is going to have a very, very scanty knowledge of these two presenile conditions if he depends on this book. Less space might have been devoted to the tumours of the nervous system and more to Pick and Alzheimer's diseases.

In discussing amaurotic family idiocy we wish the author had avoided the use of the word "amentia" and used the word "oligophrenia" instead.

These remarks apply more to the book when regarded as a manual for medical students. The candidate for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine, in England at any rate, requires considerably more than this book provides.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Psychology of Human Behaviour. By JOSEPH HARRY GRIFFITHS, Ph.D. New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1935. Pp. xxi + 515. Price \$2.50.

The author is Professor of Psychology in Lawrence College, and the book is based on his lecturing experience to elementary students.

The book is really excellent. At the end of each chapter is a very good summary, together with a number of examination questions, a bibliography, and a very ample course of further reading. The author gives very free acknowledgment of the various books and journals from which he has borrowed figures and quotations.

The book is divided into six parts, dealing with what psychology is, the psychology of learning, of feeling and emotion, of thinking and imagining, of perceiving, and of personality.

We cannot remember reading a text-book on psychology which is better laid out and in which the subject-matter is more clearly presented.

The psycho-analytic views might, however, have been given in rather greater detail and at more length. The author does refer to the psycho-analytic theories as "fascinatingly real" and to the account of the developing personality as "a veritable mirror of one's own self".

In the same way, having regard to the clinical importance being attached to the Rorschach test, we think that greater attention might have been paid to this.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Personality Maladjustments and Mental Hygiene. By J. E. WALLACE WALLIN, Ph.D. London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd. 1935. Pp. xii + 511. Price 18s. net.

The author is Director of the Division of Special Education and Mental Hygiene for the Delaware State Department of Public Instruction. His book is described as the outcome of the investigation of numerous cases of mental defect, disability and adjustment difficulty.

He begins with a description of what we understand by mental health, and then proceeds to describe the symptoms of personality maladjustments and their treatment. We do not altogether agree with the statement that rest as a general treatment in nervous and mental difficulties is not held in such high repute to-day, and most certainly not with the statement that "nowadays the substitute for the rest treatment is occupational therapy and social diversion". There is nothing more irritating to a sick mind than "social diversion".

It is doubtful if the economic depression has really led to any increase in mental disorder; if there is any it can only be slight.

We should like to see the following paragraph broadcast and indelibly imprinted in the minds of man: "A large proportion of our social and political distempers can, doubtless, be traced to the disfigured, discordant, dissatisfied personalities that inhabit the earth. Were the earth peopled with more harmonious and better integrated personalities, there would be less political and social conflict and fewer wars and rumours of wars. If the nations of the earth showed more regard for the principles of mental sanity and mental hygiene in their relations with one another, occasions for the exhibition of national bigotry, violent jingoism, jealousies, hatreds and international strife would be reduced to a minimum, if not to the vanishing point. Mental health and mental hygiene in international as in personal relations mean facing the facts and issues candidly and dispassionately, without bias, duplicity, hypocritical diplomacy, or subservience to insensate emotional urges." If the statesmen of modern Europe could only be segregated for a few years and dealt with, preferably by prolonged narcosis, there might be some prospect of peace at last. The child-guidance movement is an invaluable movement, but requires greater scope and development. How true is it that "the smattering of scientific information that teachers have obtained from the vast field of applied