

not appeal either to the patient or to the surgeon in Britain. For adults local analgesia is advocated. The uvula, salivary glands, and infections in the neck are considered in the next section. There are clear pictures of the fascial planes and the spread of infections in relation to them, but enough stress is not laid on how much fewer and less dangerous these infections have become since the advent of the antibiotics.

Tuberculosis, syphilis, and neoplasms are described adequately and their treatment given in detail. The statement that tuberculous lesions are comparatively common in the nasopharynx has not been recognized in British textbooks. A chapter on the relation of tonsillectomy and poliomyelitis is excellent. Opinions for and against operation during epidemics are supported by many statistics, but leave the question open. The final advice is to avoid operation during the summer months, when poliomyelitis is at its worst. The discussion on tonsils and rheumatism brings out the opinion generally held in Britain.

Shortly, this work is a book of reference for the E.N.T. specialist. The illustrations are unequal in quality; some are good, notably those of radiographs and pathological sections, but the clinical ones need knowledge for their interpretation.

W. M. MOLLISON.

EXAMINING THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Diagnostic Tests in Neurology. A Selection for Office Use. By Robert Wartenberg, M.D. Forewords by Sir Gordon Holmes, M.D., F.R.S., and Stanley Truman, M.D. (Pp. 228; 62 figures. \$4.50 or £1 13s.) Chicago: The Yearbook Publishers, Inc. London: Interscience Publishers Ltd. 1953.

The author, who works at the University of California School of Medicine, thinks that diagnosis in neurology, as in some other branches of medicine, is coming to depend too much on laboratory and other special methods of investigation, while the bedside examination of the patient is too often neglected. His book is an attempt to correct this fault, and he clearly describes a large number of simple methods of neurological examination and the conclusions that can be drawn from them. He does not attempt to give a systematic account of examination of the central and peripheral nervous systems, nor does he mention some important aspects such as the investigation of disturbances of speech. The numerous tests are well described and many are illustrated. Some of them are rarely used in Britain, and might with advantage be adopted. In his account of the signs of a lesion of the pyramidal tract he refers to eversion of the foot on the affected side, but what he is in fact describing and illustrating (p. 109) is external rotation of the hip and not eversion of the foot. His account of the reflexes, of which he has previously published a detailed study, is especially good, and he rightly avoids the use of eponyms to describe various ways of eliciting the same reflex; but it is doubtful whether his name of "triceps surae reflex" is ever likely to replace the more familiar "ankle jerk." This book is a useful addition to accounts of clinical examination of the nervous system.

J. W. ALDREN TURNER.

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, BELFAST

Fifty Years on the Grosvenor Road: An Account of the Rise and Progress of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, during the Years 1903-1953. By Robert Marshall, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H. (9, College Gardens, Belfast.) (Pp. 139; illustrated.)

The Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, had its origin in the year 1792 in a house, but as the city grew the need for larger premises led to the building of a hospital of 100 beds in 1815 and the increase in the number of beds to 186 in 1870. In 1903, when the population of the city was 350,000, the present fine hospital in Grosvenor Road was opened. The (then) new hospital was original in design with clerestory lighting and the plenum system of ventilation, but in the course of 50 years many alterations and additions have taken place, and it is the story of this period

of development in the new building that is graphically described in this book of 137 pages. The history of the Belfast General Hospital has already been written by Malcolm (1851), and the intervening period awaits a historian.

The author divides the 50 years into 10 quinquennia, and in each period he first gives the main events of world history, followed by a description of the chief changes in the hospital so that (as he intended) the pageant of the growth of the hospital passes before us with the panorama of the world's activities as a background. This method makes it a little difficult to read the book straight through, but it serves to give a proper perspective to the picture.

Many famous medical men have come from the Queen's University and from the Royal Victoria Hospital, and an account of many of them will be found in this book. Many of them (85%) have sought a career in other countries, chiefly in England, rarely in Scotland. The reader will note with interest that the distinguished men who 12 years ago were elected respectively President of the Royal College of Physicians and President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and who later were both created peers, were both of them sons of graduates of the old Queen's University of Ireland.

This is a faithful account of a celebrated institution which will be welcomed by all who have been connected with it, and it contains many facts which will be of interest to a much wider circle. We wish there had been an index of names.

ZACHARY COPE.

HINDU PSYCHOLOGY

Mental Health and Hindu Psychology. By Swami Akhil-ananda. Introduction by Professor O. Hobart Mower. (Pp. 229. 16s.) London: George Allen and Unwin. 1952.

In Hinduism the philosophic background of religion in the widest sense cannot be reached without mental training, and so religion and psychology are inseparable. Hence the place given to the technical training of the mind by Hindu thinkers. Our author, after long residence in America, believes that Hindu psychology has some qualities missed by Western psychology. The relative failure of much psychological treatment, particularly psycho-analysis, he attributes to the almost total separation of religion and psychology.

His argument is that acceptance of the pleasure principle as a primary objective in life must lead to repression. But this is a wrong objective. Hinduism teaches that transformation of the emotions obviates repression. The standard of life in America, judged by wages and physical amenities, is high. If the resources of science could remove mental ill-health, America would be free of it. But mental disabilities are increasing, owing to an inherent defect in the customary Western outlook on life. In Hindu thought, the ideal is the unfolding of inner possibilities. "In the west, the problem is how much a man can possess . . . in India the problem is, on how little a man can live." When the comforts of the world are paramount the result is apprehension and anxiety.

Freud and his followers, who regard religion as illusion, come in for criticism; they lack a personal understanding of religion itself. To explain religious strivings in terms of a preconceived hypothesis produces distortions, not interpretations, of religious experience. The damage to human society arising from a confusion of mature and immature religious sentiment is immense.

The complacency of some psychiatrists and their facility in providing psychopathological explanations for all human frailties is no guarantee that they have the answers. This volume does not claim to provide all the answers, but it does claim, with justification, that there is much in Hindu thought which could enrich Western psychological thought and practice.

E. A. BENNET.