

to date and open up new and interesting views. In the thalamus the new work of Le Gros Clark and Earl Walker is incorporated. The functions of the basal ganglia are evidently now being rapidly elucidated, and even the outlook on the cerebellum seems to be less depressing than has latterly been the case.

The book is essentially academic in its outlook rather than clinical, and should make a landmark in the literature of neurology. There is a comprehensive bibliography of 1,361 references, with titles, and subject and author indexes. It is to be regretted that the subject index is rather scrappy and irregular, as this gives a very poor idea of the very extensive contents of the book.

SURGERY OF THE LUNG AND PLEURA

Chirurgie der Lungen und des Brustfelles. By Dr. Alfred Brunner. Band 26. (Pp. 282; 112 figs. R.M. 22.50; bound R.M. 24.) Dresden and Leipzig: Theodor Steinkopff. 1938.

The publication of new monographs on thoracic surgery continues. Indeed it appears that books are tending to outstrip the actual progress made in this branch of surgery, which is slow and laborious if by progress is meant the establishment on a sound basis of new procedures and operations. The name of Dr. Alfred Brunner, who has written *Chirurgie der Lungen und des Brustfelles* in the series *Medizinische Praxis*, the object of which, the editors emphasize, is strictly practical, commands respect. For eleven years he was assistant to Sauerbruch, and since 1926 has directed the surgical department of the Kantospitals St. Gallen in Switzerland. But in writing this book the author has fallen between two stools. It is rather too detailed for the physician or general practitioner who wishes to acquaint himself with the surgical possibilities in diseases of the chest. On the other hand, the surgeon will probably prefer to consult the larger and more profusely illustrated works recently published, such as those by Sauerbruch and O'Shaughnessy, or by Schmidt, Kremer, and Hein. A valuable feature of the book by Brunner is, however, the account he gives of his own experience and results. The reproduction of the skiagrams is not very satisfactory, but a word of appreciation should be said for the author's practice of reproducing at the side of the skiagrams of the chest, before and after partial thoracoplasty, a photograph of the actual portions of ribs removed.

TRAUMATIC NEURASTHENIA

Traumatic Mental Disorders in Courts of Law. With a General Survey of Medical Evidence and Procedure in Civil Actions. By William A. Brend, M.A., M.D., B.Sc. (Pp. 104. 7s. 6d. net.) London: William Heinemann (Medical Books). 1938.

Mental disturbance as a disability resulting from accident is one of the most perplexing problems of the law courts. Claims are made from time to time against motorists or transport companies for damage for mental or nervous injury resulting from an accident due to negligence of a driver, but most cases of traumatic neurasthenia appear as claims for workmen's compensation. They are usually little understood by lawyers and inadequately explained by doctors. Dr. Brend has written a valuable guide to this difficult problem. He had great and varied experience during the war as officer in charge of the special board for functional nerve disorders, and afterwards as neurologist to the Ministry of Pensions. He has also had many years' experience as a medical witness in insurance cases.

One of his first objects in writing the book is, he says, to improve the quality and status of the medical witness. He feels, with justice, that medical evidence in courts of law is not in a satisfactory position. Views are expressed by medical witnesses which are widely at variance with the medical canon; medical bona fides is impugned, and rebukes by judges are regrettably frequent.

Dr. Brend is convinced that many of these reproaches are due to the limitations of standard textbooks on forensic medicine, which deal with medical evidence entirely from the criminal point of view. The requirements of courts in civil cases are different and often much more complex. He has accordingly tried to set out the difficulties of the inexperienced medical witness and to suggest how to meet them. He describes clearly the chief forms which may be taken by traumatic neurasthenia and gives valuable advice on the examination of patients, a concise survey of the chief points of variance between the legal and medical outlooks, and an outline of the duties of the medical referee under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. One suggestion he makes for remedying the present position of the medical witness is the establishment of boards under the medical referee, and in addition he points out the need for better facilities for the treatment of injured workmen.

Notes on Books

Dr. LESLIE HARRIS has brought the text of his *Vitamins in Theory and Practice* up to date by mentioning the fact that vitamin B₁ has indeed been synthesized and that, as the diphosphate, it acts as the co-enzyme, "co-carboxylase"; that nicotinic acid or its amide is probably the pellagra-preventive factor or is closely related to it; that calciferol made by the irradiation of ergosterol is a different substance from vitamin D₃ made by the irradiation of 7-dihydrocholesterol and occurring naturally in fish-liver oils; and that vitamin A has been separated from oils containing it by molecular distillation and then crystallized. The form of the book and its price (8s. 6d.) are unaltered. It is published by the Cambridge University Press.

The sixth edition of *Organic and Bio-chemistry*, by Dr. R. H. A. PLIMMER, has been revised so as to give an account of the more important advances that have occurred in the subject during the five years since the appearance of the last edition. As the number of editions indicates, it is a well-known textbook with a firmly established popularity. No major alterations have been made and the volume retains its previous size and form. It is published by Longmans, Green and Co. at 21s.

In his *Plan for the Organization and Regulation of Blood Transfusion in Buenos Aires*, which has been reprinted from *La Prensa Medica Argentina* of April 13, 20, and 27, 1938, Dr. EMILIO S. SAMMARTINO gives the detailed description of a transfusion service in which he has acted as a pioneer.

Social Interest: A Challenge to Mankind, by ALFRED ADLER, is an English translation by John Linton, M.A., and Richard Vaughan (Faber and Faber, 10s. 6d.). Dr. Adler wrote many books, but while the earlier works presented an interesting and important point of view, in his later years there was a tendency to dogmatic harping on the same theme without the addition of any original thought. This book evokes the respect and interest which the posthumous works of a leader in any branch of knowledge must command, but those who have studied all his works will gain nothing new, and those who are unacquainted with Adler's views would perhaps do better to follow the development of those views from some of his earlier works.