

to this volume have faced the difficulties with courage and realism. New methods of investigation and therapy are sanely assessed, and there are some excellent illustrations, especially those which display the vessels communicating with Schlemm's canal. Sir Stewart's aptitude for laboratory research, linked with his own clinical experience and his gift of lucid exposition, has enabled him effectively to sum up the discussions. He was the best possible conductor for this accomplished orchestra.

J. H. DOGGART.

### VIRUS DISEASES

*Viral and Rickettsial Diseases of the Skin, Eye, and Mucous Membranes of Man.* By Harvey Blank, M.D., and Geoffrey Rake, M.B., B.S. Foreword by Donald M. Pillsbury, M.D. (Pp. 285+xiv; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1955.

This short but comprehensive textbook on virus diseases is most welcome. Virus infection is responsible for a wide range of affections and is thought to play a role in the causation of very many ills of unknown aetiology. Such ills range from the common infective wart to the exanthemata and meningo-encephalitis. The virus is not always the sole aetiological factor. Still too little is known about viruses or the treatment of diseases for which they are responsible. The authors themselves have done much fundamental work in this field, and they speak with some authority.

Their book is particularly welcome not only because it brings together in simple form most of our knowledge of the nature and causation of virus diseases but because the facts are effectively evaluated and arranged in significant order. This was the objective of the authors, and they have been successful. The clinical presentations are admirable, and many historical facts recorded add to the interest of the work, such as the description of smallpox in China 1200 B.C.

The evidence for cowpox and vaccinia viruses being distinct and the evidence against the herpes simplex virus being responsible for aphthous stomatitis in the infant are set out. The earliest clinical manifestation of the herpes simplex virus is generally a gingivo-stomatitis. Questions of infectivity and immunity are discussed, as is the viability of viruses away from the host. The authors emphasize that the risk of vaccinating the eczematous is the development of varicelliform dermatoses which may prove fatal. The section on warts is excellent, and the authors do not disregard the part played by suggestion in the development and treatment of these troublesome lesions. There is a very good description of milkers' nodules and discussion of the differential diagnosis. Indeed, this book will serve student, general practitioner, and specialist as an excellent reference for the description of the clinical features of the common virus diseases included in it.

J. T. INGRAM.

### MENTAL MEASUREMENT

*An Introduction to Mental Measurement and its Applications.* By C. A. Richardson, C.B., M.A. (Pp. 102+viii. 8s. 6d.) London, New York, Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co. 1955.

Mr. Richardson's object has been to explain, in simple and non-technical language, the purposes and principles of psychological measurement, and to discuss how far they are fulfilled by existing tests. The opposition to such methods, he believes, is largely due to the fact that those who invent or advocate them adopt a predominantly statistical approach which is often repugnant and usually unintelligible to all but the mathematical specialist. He has therefore endeavoured to explain the basic concepts—scales, units, intelligence quotients, grading schemes, and the like—in ordinary common-sense terms. As he himself was for long one of the Ministry of Education's Chief Inspectors, he is thoroughly familiar with the problems which have led to the introduction of mental and scholastic tests in schools and with the inevitable limitations of all such procedures.

He briefly traces the history of psychological measurement, from the early introduction of tests of sensory discrimination, like those for visual and auditory acuity, to the more ambitious "group tests" for measuring general intelligence and specific aptitudes. This is followed by a detailed discussion of "the factors of the mind," though here he apparently attributes to Spearman much that Spearman avowedly borrowed from Galton. The most valuable parts of this book are the chapters on "practical applications" such as the importance of the I.Q. in the diagnosis of the educationally subnormal, the help given by tests in allocating pupils to different types of secondary school under the 1944 Act, and the value of objective methods of assessment for purposes of vocational guidance.

This manual should provide a useful introduction, not only for teachers and students of psychology, but also for school medical officers and psychiatric specialists who wish to familiarize themselves with these quantitative procedures.

CYRIL BURT.

### FRACTURES AND JOINT INJURIES

*Fractures and Joint Injuries.* By Sir Reginald Watson-Jones, F.R.C.S., M.Ch.Orth. Volume II. Fourth edition. (Pp. 445-1073; illustrated. £6 per set.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1955.

The fourth edition of the second volume of this work follows three years after that of the first. The contents include injuries of the upper and lower limbs and trunk, and the subject matter has been brought up to date twelve years after the last edition. There are copious indices, and at the end of Part V, which deals primarily with trunk injuries, are two most important chapters. Every surgeon dealing with trauma should study both of them, one being on the organization of an accident service and the other on the principles of rehabilitation after fracture and joint injuries. No one is better qualified to teach and write on these subjects than the author, and possibly in a future edition they can be given greater prominence.

The description of each injury is very lucid, and any not mentioned must be very rare. The slight alterations and additions are made to fall into line with the high standard of which readers of previous volumes were appreciative. The space given to each injury is well planned. The surgeon in difficulty will find alternative methods of treatment—particularly for the injuries apt to cause anxiety, such as fracture of the femoral neck, of the tibial shaft, or of both forearm bones, as well as those into joints. The reader will appreciate the value of the dogmatic description and excellent advice regarding dangers of treatment carried out incorrectly or under conditions unsuitable for first-class work.

The illustrations are excellent—not only well chosen and of the highest quality, but most helpful when dealing with the injury depicted. Readers will delight in the retention of the illustration depicting the author reducing a shoulder dislocation by the Hippocratic method. This and the sister volume have well deserved the international reputation of being accurate, concise, and convenient. It is important that such unrivalled books should be available for reference in every institution where injured patients are treated. The author and publishers are to be congratulated on the high standard of the book.

ST. J. D. BUXTON.

In 1948 the Family Welfare Association set up the Family Discussion Bureau run by trained social caseworkers. *Social Case-work in Marital Problems: The Development of a Psychodynamic Approach* is an assessment of the work of this Bureau over the first five years. It explains the aims of the Bureau, the training of the case workers, and the basic problems with which they have to contend. A number of detailed case histories have been carefully selected to show the wide range of people who have come to the Bureau for help and the variety of problems, both psychological and otherwise, which a case worker may have to face. Finally there is a chapter discussing the Bureau as a social agency and a useful reading list on psychiatric social work. The book is published by Tavistock Publications Ltd., price 15s.