NEW BOOKS

Squint and Convergence. By N. A. STUTTERHEIM. Pp. 95, with 26 graphs, 15 diagrams and 1 coloured plate. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1946. Price 15s. net.

Though in recent years some progress has been made in the management of squint hundreds of children still leave the schools of Britain squinting and nearly blind in one eye. Dr Stutterheim's book is therefore very welcome. It is a praiseworthy attempt to point the way to the control of squint. The aim and scope of the book may be indicated by two quotations: "No child, henceforth, should leave the primary school a squinter," and "School authorities will have to co-operate. . . They should understand that squint treatment for the child takes precedence in the curriculum." The nature of squint is discussed in the first twenty pages and the remainder of the book is devoted to treatment. The author rightly stresses the central as against the peripheral or ocular nature of squint, an approach which is by no means new to oculists but worthy of stronger emphasis in practice than circumstances have hitherto permitted. The method of treatment advocated is the re-establishment of binocular and stereoscopic vision by a course of training with prisms. As this requires thirty to sixty hours for each case, not to mention adequate co-operation, the practical difficulties are obvious. The question of amblyopia is hardly touched and the illustrative cases given had all good vision in each eye. The author's style inclines to be elaborate and involved, and the phraseology is sometimes ambiguous so that careful study of each page is required. In spite of such minor faults and although it contains much that is arguable the book is a valuable contribution in the right direction and should be in the library of everyone interested in squint. A short bibliography and an index are provided.

Everyday Psychiatry. By JOHN D. CAMPBELL, M.D. Pp. xiv+333. London: J. B. Lippincott & Co. Price 36s. net.

This is an unusual book in that the author—a man of undoubted experience in his speciality—attempts to show general practitioners that many borderline cases can and should be treated by the family doctor. Up to a point he succeeds, but a busy man can only become bewildered in trying to discover the exact category into which his individual case falls. The approach is made through the abnormal personality types, and the author reveals his own enthusiasm when he states that once the physician masters these the quality of clinical medicine will be elevated 25 per cent. "It will be a step forward in medicine equal to the discovery of the sulpha drugs." Such a statement makes no allowance for opportunity and keenness, both of which Commander Campbell has in abundance, but his self-appointed task of blazing a trail will inevitably be an uphill fight no less in the States than here.

There is a service flavour throughout his work which is natural and explains the chance that one in his position has of mass observation, similar in certain respects to that which befalls the medical officer in a Penitentiary; information from such institutions being freely used. He is familiar with the literature, quotations from which are numerous in the context. The book is written with force and crispness and a careful index will be helpful to those who prefer a more personal approach than is usually found in the text-books.