Textbook of Nervous Diseases. By Robert Bing, translated by Webb Haymaker from the Fifth German Edition. Pp. xiii+838, with 207 illustrations, including 9 in colour. London: Henry Kimpton. 1939. Price 50s.

Students of neurology will welcome this translation of Professor Bing's well-known textbook. Professor Bing writes with great clarity and his precision of expression is well preserved by the excellent translation.

Diseases of peripheral nerves are first considered, and in subsequent chapters, diseases at progressively higher levels of the nervous system are described. The book is thoroughly up-to-date in most respects and includes, for example, the modern treatment of myasthenia gravis and a description of the effects of a prolapsed intervertebral disc. The author incorporates his own wide experience in every page of the book. This arrangement from the pen of an experienced clinician makes the best type of textbook. The style reminds the reader of Gower's textbook which is considered the model for British neurologists. It is, of course, easy to find something to criticise in a book of this size. For example, there is no adequate reference to hypertrophic polyneuritis and to other forms of chronic polyneuritis which have been described by Harris. The advantages of modern graded perimetry are ignored, while there is no reference to injuries to the optic nerve and chiasma. The treatment advised for trigeminal neuralgia requires revision. The reader is surprised to find that galvanisation of the spinal cord is recommended for syringomyelia, while X-ray treatment is considered to be disappointing. The description of the pathological changes is omitted in many sections of the book and this is, in some instances, a serious disadvantage. As a whole, however, the book will be of value to the clinician and the extensive lists of references will be useful.

Psycho-analysis. By Edward Glover, M.D. Pp. iv+139. London: John Bale Medical Publications Ltd. 1939. Price 12s. 6d. net.

To condense the subject of psycho-analysis into the scope of a small volume is no mean task. The book is arranged in three sections, the first concerned with the theoretical basis, the second with the types of disorder which may be treated in this way, and the third with the practical applications of the method. The author, a disciple of Freud, gives in simple language a clear account of the master's views on psychology. Whether one agrees with this system or not, the subject is worthy of the attention of the medical profession.
New Books

*Tuberculosis of the Upper Respiratory Tracts.* By F. C. Ormerod, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii+215, with 55 illustrations of which 31 are in colour. London: John Bale Medical Publications Limited. 1939. Price 21s. net.

This beautifully illustrated book is primarily intended for physicians treating pulmonary tuberculosis. It is based on the author’s Brompton Hospital experience and describes tuberculous lesions in the larynx; the pharynx and its associated structures; the nose, accessory sinuses and naso-pharynx; and the ear. The space devoted to the various sections is governed rightly by their respective clinical importance, and two-thirds of the book are devoted to the larynx. Any possible note of criticism will rest not with the text but with the plan of the book in which the author allows himself some anatomical latitude. Thus lesions of trachea and bronchi are dealt with under pharynx and its associated structures, when they would be more at home if treated in relation to the larynx.

*A Survey of Child Psychiatry.* By Contemporary British Authorities. Pp. xii+278. Oxford University Press, London: Humphrey Milford. 1939. Price 10s. 6d.

It is in comparatively recent years that child psychiatry has received its due recognition as a subject sufficiently separate and important to merit its own specialised workers and its own literature. It is only in the last decade that practical organised child guidance work from the standpoint of the medical profession has come into being in this country. Educationists, such as Madame Montessori, were pioneers in this field before its supreme importance was more widely acknowledged.

This book, edited for the Child Guidance Council, gives a wide survey of the many problems of child psychiatry and of methods employed in their study and management.

The astonishing width of the subject is indicated by the fact that twenty-one authors contribute chapters on its various aspects. The individual contributions are necessarily condensed, at times even sketchy. After an able general introduction, the mental aspects of physical illness, the childhood’s aspect of mental illnesses, the special problems of family life, and the psychological bearings of social maladjustments affecting children, are dealt with. Certain syndromes, such as enuresis and stammering, receive special chapters.

The word “survey” in the title is well justified, and its wide range and limited detail must be remembered by the prospective reader. The book provides most stimulating reading and reflects the new, lively, critical attention that is being paid to children’s development in both body and mind, viewing these two aspects as one indivisible unity.
New Books

*Psychobiology and Psychiatry.* By W. Muncie, M.D. Pp. 739. London: Henry Kimpton. 1939. Price 40s. net.

This work is described as a textbook of Normal and Abnormal Human Behaviour and is based on the teaching and methods of the Psychiatric Clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. It is divided into four parts. The first is entitled a study of normal behaviour. The student is encouraged to make observations on his own mental processes and make-up, and to compare his findings with those of his fellows, so as to give some idea of the variations of the normal. It is believed that this should give a full insight into the working of the mind and so prepare for a study of the patient.

Part 2 deals with abnormal behaviour, the reactions of cases of mental disease. The author has adopted the nomenclature and classification of Adolf Meyer in preference to those of Kraepelin, claiming that this places the study of man on a frankly biological basis. The psychobiological concept of mental disease has been criticised as a superficial classification of unclear, muddy ideas, a replacement of the Kraepelinian nomenclature by a new and obscure terminology, and a mere descriptive classification with no attempt to deal with etiology. These criticisms are answered by the author. A particular feature of this section is the inclusion of a large number of illustrative case records.

Part 3, which is devoted to the treatment of mental disorders, is particularly well done. Part 4 records the development of our knowledge and conception of mental illness. It consists of a chronologically arranged series of abstracts from all important papers on each of the mental disorders, and should be very valuable.

The book is stimulating and thought-provoking, and is well worth the attention of all who are interested in psychiatry.

*A Text-Book of X-Ray Diagnosis by British Authors.* Edited by E. Cochrane Shanks, Peter Kerley, and E. W. Twining. Vol. III. Pp. xiv+800, with 710 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. Price £3, 3s. net.

This is the last volume to be produced, and the subjects covered are the Central Nervous System, Accessory Nasal Sinuses and Mastoids, Bones and Joints and Soft Tissues, Teeth and Jaws, the Eye, and in the final chapter, Cineradiography.

The same high standard has been maintained as in the previous two volumes. The section on the Central Nervous System is particularly good, and it is interesting to note when the pathology of bone is discussed that the theory of Leriche and Policard is not accepted. The illustrations are numerous and of good quality. The authors are to be congratulated on their valuable contribution to radiological literature.
New Books

Die Funktion der Nebennierenrinde. By F. Verzar. Pp. 266, with 16 illustrations and 4 tables. Basel: Benno Schwabe and Co. 1939. Price 25 Fr.

Professor Verzar has been working on the suprarenal gland since 1923 and has made contribution of fundamental importance to the subject. The present volume reviews the state of knowledge up to date. The view is presented that the essential function of the internal secretion of the suprarenal cortex is connected with the process of phosphorylation in the cells of the body. Interference with this process leads to alterations in the carbohydrate and fat metabolism, which are responsible for the derangements in the muscular function and salt balance. The close relation between the suprarenals and the sex glands are discussed in the light of the recent work on the chemistry of the steroids. The applications of all this recent work to clinical medicine are also briefly described. There is a good bibliography but, unfortunately, no index. The book deserves to be read by all interested in the suprarenal gland and in the basic control of metabolic processes.

Asthma and the General Practitioner. By James Adam. Pp. 151. Baillière, Tindall & Cox, London. 1939. Price 6s.

Although the literature of asthma is already immense, Dr Adam’s book deserves attention for at least two reasons. It presents to the reader a clear, concise and unbiassed account of the subject, and it is based upon a study of 2000 cases, over a period of forty years. Asthma is a symptom rather than a disease, and this may partly explain the confused and diverse opinions regarding it. In his opening chapters, the author defines the various types of asthma—cardiac, bronchial, thymic and toxæmic, and he discusses the rôle of adrenals and sympathetic and of heredity, which he thinks has been unduly stressed. Nurture is more important than nature, and many asthmatic children are “only” children.

Dr Adam cured asthma in a pit pony and an Aberdeen terrier, in each case by diet and open-air exercise. The psychological factor has been exaggerated and the search for allergens is often futile. It is interesting to learn from so experienced a laryngologist that nasal operation alone seldom cures an asthmatic, and that most cases of sinusitis respond to intranasal operations and seldom require “radical” methods.

A timely warning is sounded regarding the toxic effects of aspirin in certain persons. It may induce asthma and even unconsciousness and death. The writer also considers that milk should be forbidden to all asthmatics, and he defines a condition which he calls milk rhinorrhœa, which is common in children who are given raw milk. Fermented milk (yoghurt or buttermilk) may be allowed.
The treatment of asthma consists largely in changing the patient’s habits as to food, clothing, exercise and environment. The food factor is of great significance; the diet is often defective in its calcium and its vitamin contents. Colonic irrigation is of great value, as also is a weekly mercurial purge. The use of various other drugs which have been recommended is discussed in some detail, though drug treatment is of secondary importance. The writer agrees with most authorities in regarding about 50 per cent. asthmatics as victims of allergy. The principal inhalant allergens are house dust, feathers and moulds, while the chief ingestants are milk, eggs, wheat and chocolate.

As Dr James Bridie remarks in his foreword, Dr Adam is a pioneer whose originality and liveliness will commend him to all readers, and especially to the general practitioner, to whom the asthmatic patient presents a difficult, yet hopeful, problem.

*My Life.* By Havelock Ellis. Pp. 542. London: William Heinemann Ltd. 1940. Price 15s.

About the age of thirty, Ellis conceived the idea of writing his autobiography. The narrative was composed at leisure, was modified and re-written from time to time, and was only completed in May 1939 shortly before his death. In a final note to the publisher he stated that he wished the work to be issued exactly as it stands without modification or deletion.

The author begins with an account of his ancestors, middle-class people of Sussex, sailors, parsons, tradesfolk and yeomen. On completing his education he went on a voyage to Australia with his father, and was offered a post as assistant master in a Sydney school. Later, while living in the bush, he experienced a spiritual conversion and planned a method of exploring religious phenomena, but laid this aside because he realised "that the question of sex came before the question of religion in degree of urgency." To follow out this idea he determined to become a doctor, and he returned to England to do so. The attractions of undergraduate life made study difficult, and after an extended course he had to be content with the L.S.A.

Of his actual life-work he has little to say, but there is much to tell of the interesting people he knew. He writes lovingly and at length of his wife, who was an authoress determined to make a career for herself. His story appears to be candid and sincere, but the reader is left wondering whether all has been told. The author portrays himself as a shy and retiring individual, but the reader will consider him self-centred and selfish, with little real consideration for his closest intimates. He claims to have had a full and happy life, but many will doubt whether he succeeded in making the best of it.

The autobiography should appeal to the medical profession and will be of special interest to the psychologist.
New Books

The Histamine and Insulin Treatment of Schizophrenia and other Mental Diseases. By Horace Hill, M.R.C.P. Pp. vii+133. London: Bailliére, Tindall & Cox. 1940. Price 6s.

This is not a treatise on standard methods, but is an account of therapy devised by the author. It is claimed that by this method the dangers attendant on the shock induced by insulin or cardiazol can be avoided. The author points out that histamine is liberated in all forms of shock. When insulin is employed in large doses to produce shock, two classes of symptoms may occur, those due to hypoglycemia and those due to histamine. Severe reactions are really the result of "poisonous doses of the different substances, histamine and insulin." Consideration of such facts led the author to try the effect of non-toxic doses of insulin and histamine. These are given hypodermically daily or twice a week for six weeks and the course may be repeated several times. The author gives case records of a number of patients whom he has treated in this way, and the results appear to be very gratifying.

Technique of Analytical Psychotherapy. By Wilhelm Stekel. Pp. xvii+408. London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 1939. Price 21s.

In this translation of the German original, Stekel provides an account of his own distinctive method of analytical psychotherapy, as contrasted with Freud's psycho-analytical method. Unlike Freud, Stekel regards a short analysis as the most efficacious; and the chief aim of his method is to effect a cure within a few weeks. Consequently he finds it impossible to leave the initiative with the patient, or to content himself with interpreting such material as the patient provides and such resistances as may obstruct the emergence of significant material; and he therefore subordinates the "free association" method, which constitutes the golden rule of Freudian technique, to an "active" method of his own. The essential conditions of this active method are (1) that the analyst should be able to intuite the inner significance of the patient's behaviour, dreams and "organ speech," and interpret these directly to the patient, (2) that attention should be directed to the "actual" conflict which has precipitated the "parapathy" (Stekel's neologism for "psychoneurosis") rather than to the repressed material of childhood, which Freud regarded as providing the conditions without which no psychopathological symptoms would occur. It is inevitable that, in the application of his active method to actual conflicts, Stekel should adopt a policy of intervention in the daily life of his patients such as no orthodox psycho-analyst would countenance. It is not surprising, therefore, to find him recording some odd experiences with patients; but some of his case-histories make one wonder if anything is impossible in Vienna.
New Books

Neurology. By S. A. Kinnier Wilson, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Pp. xxxvi+1838. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1940. Price £4. 4s. for two volumes.

Dr Kinnier Wilson, an Edinburgh graduate who won for himself a world-wide reputation as a neurologist, has left us a valuable legacy. For about ten years before his premature death he had been devoting a large part of his time to the preparation of this book which he regarded as his magnum opus. The results are worthy of his efforts. The information collected is encyclopaedic in its range, and is arranged in a clear and orderly manner. The author was a careful observer and an original thinker who contributed liberally to medical literature, and the rich fruit of his wide experience is everywhere evident in these volumes. The number of references to original papers is colossal, and abstracts and tables from these have been freely incorporated. The result is an authoritative work which is thoroughly up to date and which will remain a standard for many years to come.

Transactions of the Sixtieth Meeting of the American Surgical Association. Edited by W. E. Lee. Vol. 57. J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1939.

This volume contains, as usual, many valuable papers. A considerable number of the communications deal with abdominal conditions, and special mention might be made of one on the value of preliminary colostomy in the treatment of that serious lesion, gastro-jejuno-colic fistula. Eight of the papers deal with the various aspects of anaesthesia, and together they provide a very complete survey of the various methods of anaesthesia now in use. The surgical treatment of hypertension is also discussed from both the experimental and clinical standpoints, and there is an interesting paper on the rôle of the pituitary gland in water balance. Some forty articles appear in this volume which cannot fail to interest every general surgeon.

An Outline of Medical Psychology. By E. Fretson Skinner, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii+174. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. 1939. Price 6s.

The purpose of this modest little book is to present to junior medical students, in the simplest possible form, some of the data and hypotheses of modern psychopathology. Some account is also given of the clinical features of the psycho-neuroses and of the analytical treatment of such conditions. The author bases his exposition on Freudian hypotheses on the grounds that these are most in conformity both with clinical data and with physiological principles. The earlier part of the book consists of a physiological introduction; but this is too loosely connected with what follows to serve any very useful purpose.