imagine the reader who could understand a description of the psychoneuroses and who would at the same time need to have words like remiss, senile and nervous defined in a glossary.

There is material in this volume for half a dozen books. Perhaps it would have been better had some of them been written in full instead of being compressed into the 338 pages of the present work.

One gains the impression that the American public may be only newly conscious of the extent and complexity of the social and educational problems posed by this group of children, and that Dr. Weber is anxious to remedy a real lack of knowledge by offering this mass of information in its most assimilable form. The book might, therefore, be more acceptable in America than in Britain where we have considerable experience of dealing with the problem.

Of particular interest is the part of the book that deals with the importance of helping parents to understand and to come to terms with the nature and extent of their children’s handicap. This aspect of the work has received insufficient attention in this country, and the various disciplines concerned with the treatment of handicapped children could learn a great deal from Dr. Weber in this respect.

The material in the book is arranged clearly and is expressed lucidly. It has, however, little of importance to add to the standard works on this subject already available to the serious student.


Although Dr. Matthews disclaims any special qualifications to write with authority on the neurology of infancy, there are very few physicians, including paediatricians, who will not benefit from reading this very good and original book.

It must have been a difficult book to achieve and much hard work lies behind the final elegant and absorbing result. The author has not set out to write a textbook but to put into a logical and practical sequence his own experience for the benefit of his readers, and he has specially in mind those members of the profession who—‘seem to imagine that the neurologist spends most of his time being baffled by his inability to cure Disseminated Sclerosis, or in carving out some new hereditary palsy to bear his name’. For this attitude of mind he puts part of the blame on neurologists themselves.

The chapters are arranged under the heading of common symptoms and begin with headache, the commonest of all. Such frequent problems as epilepsy, giddiness, pain in the leg, follow. In all there are 16 chapters, each devoted to a problem as it presents itself to the doctor. They are all admirably and helpfully dealt with, in a clear style, which makes for easy reading, and illustrated by occasional brief and to-the-point histories of patients under the author’s care. With regard to treatment, the author again records his own views and experience, often expressed with a degree of dry but tolerant scepticism.

No one who reads this book can fail to enjoy it and there will be few who will not find in it something of use. It can certainly be recommended without reserve to the general practitioner and to the general or specialist physician. The final year medical student or house officer, too, will find it helpful, but it probably assumes a little too much basic knowledge to be given to the medical student at the start of his clinical career, as an introduction to the subject.

The printing and production are very good and the price very modest.


This is a paper-back book which describes the neurological examination of the newborn and young baby. The authors make no claim that the book contains new material not previously included in their earlier books, but they do add new variations and interpretations of the tests previously described. The text is very fully illustrated, but unfortunately most of the photographs are of poor quality, and suggest that they have been taken from cinematographic films. There are 40 references, 20 to the work of André-Thomas, 12 to other French workers, two to Italian papers, one to a Spanish paper and five to German papers.

The extremely valuable painstaking research of André-Thomas and his school is well known in this country. This little book makes a useful addition to the library of all those who are interested (as all paediatricians should be) in the development of the infant.


This monograph is issued as a supplement to the Archiv für Kinderheilkunde and deals with the psychological evaluation of the brain-damaged child. Unfortunately aetiological factors are not taken into consideration, and tests currently in use are only cursorily reviewed.

The main object of the work is to compare the Rorschach test performance of 120 children with varying degrees of brain damage and a like control group matched for age and sex. This is well done, and the author is to be commended on the objectivity of his approach. He reaches the conclusion that the Rorschach test is well suited to determine the degree of personality change and that this is very helpful in the psychological assessment of these children. It should not, however, be used as a means of differentiation between one type of brain damage and another. Comparison with normal children also demonstrates clearly that the organically determined ‘structural’ and ‘gestalt’ personality changes cannot be