Book Reviews

HISTOLOGICAL STUDIES ON THE LOCALIZATION OF CEREBRAL FUNCTIONS. By ALFRED W. CAMPBELL, M.D., Pathologist to the Asylum Board of the County of Lancaster. University Press, Cambridge.

This is a work that has been urgently needed for a long time. Hammarberg's work on "Idiocy," and isolated monographs here and there have led up to the desire for a work in which one could find the chief histological features of the entire cortex accurately and adequately presented. Dr. Campbell has done this in his quarto of 360 pages. After discussing the methods and material, and general remarks on cell lamination and the arrangement of nerve fibers in the cerebral cortex, he takes up the several areas of the brain substance. In Chapter III. the motor area is studied as to its structure and function. The arrangements of cell and fibers are given and comparisons drawn between the structure of the precentral area of man and ape. Special attention to the giant Betz cells is given as well. Functional studies on the changes in the cortex in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, post-amputative changes and the effects of lesions of this area are given in this chapter as well. The post central area is then taken up in the same exhaustive manner. Histological studies are followed by physiological considerations. Chapters V. and VI. treat of the visuo-sensory and visuo-psychic areas, and the temporal lobes and auditory area. The limbic lobe, the parietal area, the intermediate precentral area, the frontal and prefrontal areas and the island of Reil complete the main body of the work. In an addendum the author presents further histological studies on the localization of cerebral function, dealing particularly with the comparisons of the brain of man and those of the lion, the dog and the pig.

The more one reads the more is the impression deepened that we have here a memorable volume which will serve as a new starting point in all work on the brain, whether one is interested in neurological or psychiatric problems. Campbell has set before himself the task of going over the entire brain cortex, millimeter after millimeter, and here gives us, it might be said, for the first time the complete story of the histology of the human cortex. But he has done more, for in his hands histological investigation, supplemented by embryological and pathological considerations has opened up a well of suggestions concerning cerebral localizations which may well be designated as fundamental. The work deserves the highest praise.

JELLIFFE.

A TEXT BOOK OF PSYCHIATRY FOR PHYSICIANS AND STUDENTS. By LEONARDO BIANCHI, M. D., Professor of Psychiatry and Neuropathology in the Royal University of Naples; Minister of Public Instruction in Italy; Medical Director of the Provincial Asylum of Naples. Authorized translation by James H. Macdonald, M.B., Ch.B., Glasgow, Senior Assistant Physician to the Goran District Asylum. William Wood & Co., New York.

This text book, coming from one of the leading psychiatrists of Italy, is of more than passing moment, for the works of Bianchi and Tanzi represent the leading trends in the Italian psychiatry of to-day. The latter is strongly pervaded by the influence of German psychiatry, particularly of the Kraepelin school, while Bianchi represents Bianchi, a strongly individualistic writer and thinker.

The author introduces his work in the conventional manner by summarizing the general facts of cerebral topography and minute anatomy,