Borrowed Children. A Popular Account of some Evacuation Problems and their Remedies. By Mrs. St. Loe Strachey, O.B.E., J.P. Introduction by Amabel Williams-Ellis. John Murray. Cloth, 2s. 6d.; Paper, 1s. 6d.

From a "popular account" one expects, amongst other things, human touches and anecdotes plus a dash of practical advice. This little book gives more. In parts it is intimate; it is rich in vivid illustrations of the ups and downs in the lives of evacuated children collected, in the main, from case records of trained workers, and—in the matter of advice—there is, in addition to a wholesome absence of precept and admonition, a light but definite treatment of first principles in regard to child nurture.

The book is in two parts, the first mainly descriptive of evacuation and the problems it revealed or intensified—the second, frankly facing failures and perplexities and gathering pointers from many sources that should show the way not only to the most profitable methods for coping with evacuation difficulties, but also to a more enlightened approach to problem behaviour in children. In addition, there is an appendix containing some details of actual surveys and reports from reception areas.

The "hostesses" who read this book will find reassuring evidence of the widespread existence of problems with which they themselves are wrestling, together with comments and opinions of specialists in child study and education. They will enjoy, too, the bird's-eye view which is given of the whole question of evacuation, not of billeting alone, with particular reference to the future.

The book is not written for trained Child Guidance workers, but those who do read it will be encouraged by the clarity with which it demonstrates that war and peacetime problems occurring amongst children are similar in their nature, and also with the evidence it contains of the impetus to Child Guidance work provided by evacuation.

G.R.

Diseases of the Nervous System. By F. M. R. Walshe, O.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Price 12s. 6d. net, postage 8d.

As this book is designed for Practitioners and Students it is permissible that it should be reviewed by one who is not a neurological specialist. And no comment or criticism will be made on the neurological statements that it contains. The method of presentation, however, is important and the author in his preface describes the task that he has undertaken as

follows: "To deal only with what is possible in general practice in the matter of diagnostic methods and of treatment, to strip the subject of unnecessary complexities and to confine myself to what I have seen and believe to be true."

The book is divided into two parts. The first of 40 pages covers the General Principles of Neurological Diagnosis and is probably the most valuable section. The second part of the book is a Descriptive Account of the More Common Diseases of the Nervous System and occupies some 230 pages. But this includes a chapter of 20 pages on the Psychoneuroses which the author concedes are Diseases of the Personality and so not of the Nervous System. There are nine figures of which two are photographs, an X-ray of bilateral cervical ribs and a picture of the palmar aspect of a hand in a similar case.

The presentation is clear, concise and dogmatic. The chapters are easy to read and to understand and throughout bear the imprint of the author's attitude towards the problems of medicine. Description and diagnosis are given more prominence than treatment. Not that the author is averse to treatment but management and nursing of neurological cases rank first with him and he is desperately anxious to save the chronic sufferer from exploitation by charlatans both within and without the medical profession. Physiotherapy and especially electrical forms of treatment are regarded with suspicion and one feels that the author may have been unfortunate in his choice of collaborators in these respects.

Dr. Walshe's views on psychotherapy are well known to his medical colleagues and are stated again here with his usual frankness. Psychogenic factors in illness are very important and must be recognized as such. But because their occurrence is largely due to inborn tendencies not too much must be expected in the way of amelioration, except in the case of "traumatic neuroses" which will tend to get well once matters of law and compensation are decided. Dr. Walshe emphasizes the importance of the part the general practitioner should play in the treatment of psychoneurotic cases and believes that a careful history, an intelligent understanding of the situation and a thorough explanation of the position are all that is required in the vast majority of cases. It is only in the severer forms of anxiety and in patients with marked obsessional symptoms that the attentions of the psychotherapist will be called for.

The psychological aspects of migraine, writer's cramp and enuresis are dismissed as not proven. The medical treatment of the latter is