Human Nature : Its Development, Variations and Assessment. By John C. Raven. (Pp. xii + 226. 12s. 6d.) London : H. K. Lewis. 1952.

An introduction to the study of psychology today may easily be complicated by the growing confusion of schools and jargons. The semantic problems of the student are becoming more difficult with the increasing contributions of clinicians and sociologists and transatlantic social scientists, all with their own technical language and discipline. At the same time there is a growing demand that everyone whose job is even remotely concerned with people should make some study of psychology and that this should begin at an early stage in training.

In this introduction to individual and social psychology Dr. Raven neatly avoids this confusion, and the resulting book is clear and concise. It contains no jargon at all, and the few technical terms which are used are well and fully defined. Moreover, the author is careful to present only what is by now generally agreed upon, and he omits all but passing reference to the controversial.

There are three main sections, of which the first describes the development of behaviour from infancy to maturity ; the second some variations in the experience of the adult ; and the last the assessment of individual abilities and interests. There is in addition a brief statistical appendix and a glossary of the terms used. To begin with, the place of psychology in the study of behaviour and its methods of approach are explained. The growth of the child, intellectual, social, and emotional, is then described and his acquisition of social skills discussed. The effect of the family group and the emotional events of infancy and adolescence are clearly outlined but are perhaps not given as much attention as they deserve. In consequence, the section may fail to impress upon the reader the fact that these early years are now generally regarded as of paramount importance in the formation of personality. In the part which deals with adult experience the author is clearly talking to another more mature audience, and his section on introspective and social psychology is a very helpful introduction to the subject. Dr. Raven comes into his own in the last section on mental testing. It is the best part of the book, probably because of his undisputed authority in this field. His description of the uses, and more particularly of the abuses, of mental tests in selection procedures will be of particular interest to industrial medical officers who are often consulted upon the value of such tests.

So much learning is compressed into this small volume that some aspects of the subject are bound to be neglected as a result. For instance, the inclusion of the whole of biological evolution into the first few pages is probably unnecessary, being too brief for those unacquainted with the subject. Moreover, because of its lack of controversial matter and perhaps because it is obviously a summary of a series of lectures, the style of the book is detached and leaves us with the feeling that here we shall not find answers to the problems of behaviour, but rather a very competent description of what happens.

There can be few people who served in H.M. Forces during World War II who were not tested at some time

by one of Dr. Raven's tests, or by a test which derived from them. Clear thinking was needed for the construction of such tests, and clear thinking has gone into this little book. As an easy introduction to the subject for students, it will be very useful.

E. MAURICE BACKETT

Employment Problems of Disabled Youth in Glasgow. By T. Ferguson, A. N. MacPhail, and M. I. McVean. (Pp. 66 ; 3s.) Medical Research Council Memorandum No. 28. London : H.M. Stationery Office. 1952.

"There can be few more promising fields for the practice of constructive medicine than those concerned with the problems of disabled youth." So starts this fascinating report based on a study of the employment experience of two groups of Glasgow young people. The first consisted of 579 young people who were registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, the second of 408 who had left schools for physically handicapped children during the years 1945-48. The investigation was directed at finding out to what extent disabled young folk are unable to earn a living, what kinds of disability interfere most seriously with their working capacity, how far social and environmental factors contribute to their difficulties, and whether any remedial actions suggest themselves. The two groups were studied separately, not being strictly comparable, but the findings are similar and corroborative.

Of the two groups combined, 19% were unemployed at the date of the survey, 20.5% were engaged in office or other non-manual work, 32.5% in skilled or semi-skilled manual work, 27% in unskilled manual work, and 1% in unclassified manual work. Compared with a group of ordinary ex-school boys aged 17, the amount of unemployment and the proportion engaged in unskilled manual work is much higher in the disabled group. The vicious circle of illness or injury, loss of schooling, unskilled, often heavy, work, and further illness is illustrated, and it is evident that many disabled young people, often driven by necessity, are doing work far beyond their physical capacity. Among factors which adversely affect chances of a suitable employment one of the most important is shown to be lack of schooling, and this aspect is stressed throughout the report. In regard to the type of disability, those with conditions affecting the nervous system and the mentally handicapped form a very difficult problem. Social factors, though complex and difficult to assess, are dealt with adequately and are shown to play an important part. No less than 113 of the 579 registered persons lived in homes that could only be described as appalling. The chances of home study during apprenticeship or while attending night classes are nil under such conditions. Unemployment of the father or apathy in the parents adversely affect the chances of gaining and keeping a satisfactory job while death of the father often drives the young person to work which is, though perhaps well paid, too heavy and merely temporary.

This report succeeds in being a human document in spite of its 59 tables. The results are clearly set down and