BOOK REVIEWS

of epileptogenic cortical wounds to these suppressor areas which Fulton quotes have still to be confirmed.

In discussing the prefrontal region and the orbital and medial aspects of the frontal lobe, evidence is assembled suggesting that there are important autonomic centres in these areas. To elicit many of these responses it appears to be necessary to use electrical stimuli of strength and duration optimal for that particular response. Indeed this is so generally important that it is suggested that much previous work on cortical stimulation requires repeating with more careful control of the type of electrical stimulus used. At present it seems as if the same point may at times give rise to differing but constant responses with changes in the parameters of stimulus.

In referring to the applications of this newer knowledge of frontal lobe function to clinical work, and especially to the various operative procedures now being explored in the treatment of mental diseases, Fulton pleads for a scientific approach and for the replacement of blundersuss leucotomy by some more limited and anatomically controlled procedure. Most clinicians will be sympathetic to this plea, but the author appears to be unfamiliar with the very great difficulties to any accurate observations that are often presented by the kind of clinical material which has to be used here.

In his final chapter on the cerebellum the writer reviews the modern experimental evidence for the functions of this organ, and for somatotopical localization of function. This field is one whose primary geography is still being decided, but it would seem that the flocculonodular, the anterior, and the phylogenetically younger posterior lobes each have functions which may be separable experimentally and perhaps also clinically as our knowledge increases. The book has limitations inevitable to a review of work in progress, but it is stimulating reading, and deserves a place beside the "Physiology of the Nervous System" on the shelves of clinical neurologists.


The eight separate essays which comprise this book, though in some ways disconnected, have a single theme. This is essentially a familiar one. Mental disorders are not to be wholly understood as aggregates of symptoms each of which is mechanistically determined, and without an inner psychological meaning, nor along psychogenic lines as simple variations of behaviour under the impact of psychological or social causes, but as a partial dissolution of mental activity brought about by organic processes, and so analogous to the dream which is liberated by sleep. This theme is handled historically, and the discussion of the development of French psychiatry is abundantly documented, able, and interesting. Throughout this historical development the three types of theories reappear, represented by new exponents in successive periods. The mechanistic approach of Clérambault, and the psychogenic formulation of Freud are discussed in considerable detail, before the author puts his own "organic-dynamic" point of view. To the English reviewer the book seems to suffer from the defects of its class, that of the philosophical and theoretical treatise without a close connexion with biology, medicine, physiology, or neurology. That is to say, the theories which are debated are appraised more for their clarity, symmetry, or subtlety than for their relevance to experimental or even clinical medicine. At no point is an attempt made to summarize the evidence which might have a bearing on the theoretical interpretations which are advanced.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)


Teoria Y Practica del Psicodiagnostico de Rorschach. By Frederico Pascual Del Roncal. Published by The University Society Mexicana, S.A. No price given.


