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This little book will be read with interest by many. The author writes: "It is my belief . . . that we may expect to witness the gradual evolution of a coherent science of mind within the broad framework of the biological sciences. It is this development . . . which . . . constitutes the modern trend".

Following two chapters on experimental psychology, there follow some clearly expressed accounts of current knowledge regarding brain and mind, and other aspects of physiological psychology. He emphasizes the need for close collaboration between neurologist and psychologist, but warns psychologists of the danger of becoming merely ingenious technicians. Certainly there is no danger of this while the subject attracts scientists of Mr. Zangwill's ability, and he is to be congratulated on making this helpful contribution to understanding of what modern psychology is doing, and what it aims to achieve in the future.


Bleuler's monograph is one of the great classics of psychiatry. Not long before his work was done, Kraepelin had introduced order into chaos in the clinical field by defining dementia praecox as a distinct syndrome, on the basis of careful study of the individual patient and follow-up through the years. The work of Freud was also new, and the interest in psychopathology had been awakened. Bleuler was one of the first to initiate the clinical analysis which separated and attempted to define the primary symptoms of the illness, common to all patients, from their secondary elaborations under the impress of personal factors. His work led him to the reformulation of the concept of dementia praecox into the more satisfactory concept of the schizophrenias, a formulation which is accepted today. We may doubt whether the attempt to find a single fundamental disturbance in the psychological field can ever be entirely successful in schizophrenia any more than in an organic psychosis such as Huntington's chorea. Nevertheless the attempt was a necessary one, and it brought a rich reward. The work of Bleuler, Jaspers, Gruhle, and others has brought clarity and comprehension into what was a welter of confusion; and no clinician today attempts the differential diagnosis of schizophrenic from affective psychoses without proceeding along the lines which Bleuler outlined.

This book is a reminder of the unrecognized debt we owe to the past. Quite apart from the fact that it is the product of a mind of synthetic and analytic genius, the work shows a wealth of clinical observation and a painstaking attention to the form and meaning of the patient's symptoms which are usually beyond our reach today. Preoccupied with a rush to get the patient under treatment, or absorbed with the search for the psychologically intelligible, we seldom look at the patient with attentive and unbandaged eyes. It may be indeed that the clinical knowledge which should be part of the equipment of every student is in danger of being forgotten even by the teacher. The appearance of Bleuler's monograph in an English translation should do much to counteract this danger; and it is to be hoped that it will be found on every library shelf and will be a compulsory text for examinations in psychiatry. The translator and the publishers have put us much in their debt.


The author, a lay psychoanalyst, treated a schizophrenic girl first along orthodox analytic lines, and then by a method of her own devising. The patient had shown the first signs of mental abnormality about the age of 12, and was in an advanced hebephrenic state by the time she came to the analyst at 18. Treatment continued until she was 26, and had then practically recovered. She has remained well for 10 years since. The claim which is advanced for the new psychotherapeutic technique is based on this single remarkable case. The method itself consisted in attempting to understand the symbolic meaning of the patient's acts and utterances, and then answering her in the same symbolic language.

This work is the second in a series, The Monograph Series on Schizophrenia, of which the first was an English translation of Eugen Bleuler's classic monograph on the schizophrenias.


Although the ground covered by this book is limited to insulin treatment, electric shock and treatment by chemical convulsants, and to the anoxic treatments, its quality is excellent. Indications, technique, and complications are discussed in detail; and the practical part of the work is followed by clinically informed discussion of
the psychological and clinical results. Wide experience has helped the author to deal with the problem concerning the extent to which these treatments are specific to individual syndromes, and the extent to which they are symptomatic only. A final chapter is given to an attempt to explain their effect. The author proposes as his own view, which only explains part of the results observed, the idea that the release of a depression which may be brought about by a convulsion is caused by organically determined personality changes. The euphoria, the conative changes, the increased capacity for reacting to the environment, and the reduction in psychic productivity may all be included under this heading. Owing to a change in temperament, the patient is simply unable to have, or to complete, endogenously psychotic experiences, acts, and attitudes. This theory leaves too much unaccounted for, and is in conflict with too much, to be more than highly provisional. Nevertheless it is heuristically valuable because it poses new questions and leads to a search for observations of a new kind. The book is completed by a bibliography which includes all the more important contributions to what is now a very large literature.


This little booklet is the first number of a monograph series to be published by WHO. The author is attached to the Department of Justice of Vaud in Switzerland, and presumably has had considerable practical experience in the field of juvenile delinquency. His review is written with clarity and informed by sense. The discussion of sociological, constitutional, and other aspects of aetiology is balanced and critical; but criticism gives place to a more enthusiastic attitude in the preservation of psychoanalytic views, and the author has been greatly influenced by Aichhorn. A large part of the book is given to the important preventive aspect. Although only about one juvenile delinquent in 10 becomes a recidivist, Dr. Bovet thinks that it is more important to provide a general psychiatric service for children than to concentrate on picking out the potential recidivist. The recommendations that are made, including the advice to young mothers, the provision that mothers should be constantly with their infants for the first three years, the multiplication of out-patient clinics for prevention rather than residential institutions for treatment, seem to depend on a doctrinaire rather than an empirical justification.


The author takes as his text two murders committed by men who had suffered injuries to the brain. In the first case the prisoner had, in the course of a walking-tour in the mountains, when suffering from heat and exertion, hurled a stone at a woman unknown to him at the side of the path and killed her. He subsequently took some of her possessions from the corpse, but later discarded them. Investigation showed raised intracranial pressure and increased globulin in the C.S.F. as well as other indications of a chronic traumatic lesion. Juridically he was regarded as not responsible at the time of the act. In the second case a policeman of unblemished record engaged with an accomplice in stealing a pig. When challenged by a gendarme on the way home, and called on to give up his revolver, he shot the other twice in handing over the weapon. In this case physical findings showed little more than slight signs of a localized traumatic cerebral atrophy. The past history indicated an explosively psychopathic personality. The appeal court held that the emotions which caused the impulsive killing were themselves the result of a criminal procedure willingly and deliberately entered into, and that therefore he was to be regarded as accountable. From the discussion of these cases the author considers the forensic psychiatric aspects of head injury in general, the clinical methods which may be used in investigation, the lines along which clinical findings are relevant to legal decisions. In its special field, the contribution is a useful one, although in English law the existence of the M'Naghten rules make the legal position a very different one from that which is maintained in Austrian courts.


This book is in many ways a contrast to that on leucotomy by Dr. Maurice Partridge recently published over here. Dr. Partridge approached the problem clinically, and reviewed all his cases personally. The present work is a symposium, and although the major part of it is headed "clinical considerations" as contrasted with "special studies", in fact even the clinical aspect is approached by way of segregated studies such as "work adjustment", "family adjustment", "predicting the outcome" etc. It contains a large amount of factual information, probably more than there is in Partridge's book, but it does not give the dimensional picture of leucotomy as it presents to patients, their relatives and doctors, as does Partridge. Both methods of approach are necessary, but it may be argued that for a problem with such wide clinical and personal implications, Dr. Partridge's supplies more valuable insight. However, as far as special studies are concerned, the intensive circumscribed approach is more rewarding, though it may occasionally seem to make rather flimsy evidence appear substantial.

In a preliminary review of the literature, Greenblatt still apparently believes that leucotomy cuts can be accurately assayed in vivo. This seems unduly optimistic. It is, however, encouraging to see that their standard operation is done by trephine and not burr-hole, which gives some added accuracy, and that a wedge of cortex from about area 9 is obtained for histology whenever possible.

The largest section of the book is a detailed one to four year follow-up of 205 cases. Here the study of
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personality by fragmentation seems to have got rather out of hand. Thirty factors are considered ranging from "activity, amount of ", to "wetting " and "worry"
. The result does not seem to give more information than a properly conducted and recorded clinical examination, and in some respects gives a less complete picture. Thus "wetting", "talkingiveness", and "restlessness", which are capable of some objective assessment, are treated equally with such a subtle mental attribute as "orientation "; a feature which, it is becoming increasingly clear, is commonly, though not grossly, affected early after operation.

The authors claim that in both complete unilateral leucotomy and in bilateral cuts made only on the medial sides there may be therapeutic benefit. Physiologically, this might be expected, but the claim will need careful scrutiny.

One of the vexed questions in any leucotomy programme is whether formal rehabilitation and occupational therapy have any substantial effect on clinical results. The question is not answered here, though it is presumably recognized in the statement that "rehabilitation potentialities are very largely dependent on endogenous factors of growth ". Studies of the present type should lend themselves especially to giving an answer to such questions.

Amongst special studies the anatomical changes in six necropsy specimens are given, and attention is drawn to the large amount of connexions other than thalamic that the frontal areas possess, an orientation which will be welcome to many. The evidence for changed autonomic function after operation is also usefully reviewed.

In general the clinical sections of this work are disappointing: They appear to attempt a form of "scientific" accuracy unsuitable to the material. Measurement is not useful unless the units of measurement can be defined.


This is the second edition of a work which, when published in 1942, was the first comprehensive survey of frontal leucotomy. The book has been expanded and rearranged. The range of conditions for which therapeutic operations on the frontal lobe are undertaken has increased in the last 10 years. In general the indications remain psychiatric, but the method is no longer reserved for the most severe and otherwise hopeless psychotic cases. Certain disabling neuroses are more frequently treated; and prolonged disabling painful states where the whole personality is being disorganized have recently been operated on in increasing numbers. Both these trends are illustrated in this new edition. The extension of neurosurgical treatment to cases of epilepsy with mental deficiency or other behaviour disorders is not considered. The attempt to find more limited effective operations is also somewhat briefly mentioned: the main emphasis is on the earlier standard (Freeman and Watts) cut and the authors' more radical leucotomy. The authors differ in their opinions about Freeman's transorbital leucotomy and each writes a separate section on this. Freeman's results on 400 cases certainly sound convincing, though most neurosurgeons will share Watts's hesitations about the blind passing of an instrument through the orbit into the brain (with the possibility of damage to paranasal sinuses) without full neurosurgical facilities to deal with complications that may arise.

Apart from the careful records of clinical results in a large number of cases, made more valuable by a 10-year follow-up in many instances and the histological study of necropsy material, the book contains a mass of interesting incidental observations of both psychological and physical changes following the operation. It is increasingly clear that the frontal lobes have subtle and important functions, and this book presents much valuable evidence for this. However, the authors wisely eschew dogmatic statements on the subject. It remains one of the most valuable reference works in this field, though its price in this country is a matter for dismay.


This textbook of special neuropathology is more comprehensive and informative than most of its kind in the English language, without aiming at the often tiresome completeness of a Handbuch. It also has the advantage of being very readable, as there are continuous references to the practical and clinical significance of the pathological findings. Interesting results of personal research are included, and problems, discussed lucidly and with a sense of sober criticism, are not evaded. The illustrations are instructive, carefully selected and excellently reproduced, and they make a better balance between macroscopic and microscopic appearances than is found in many previous textbooks of neuropathology. Ample references guide the reader who wants fuller information, although it must be said that they are drawn predominantly from the literature in the German language.

The classification, although, as a whole, following traditional lines, has some unusual features, e.g. a chapter on brain lesions associated with primary disease of other organs and another on hypophyseo-hypothalamic syndromes. Psychiatric aspects of neuropathology are considered in several sections of the book. The author himself expects that his classification may occasionally arouse controversy. Some neurologists may be surprised to find the "inflammatory" type of demyelinizing disease (including disseminated sclerosis) separated from the "degenerative" leucoencephaloses and treated in different chapters. Swelling of the brain and oedema are still regarded as separate entities.

Neuropathology, in the German tradition perhaps even more than elsewhere, is still too exclusively the morbid anatomy of the nervous system, and this book is
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no exception. Apart from the work of Hess, recent advances in neurophysiology, biochemistry, and related fields are not yet given their proper place. This is particularly evident in the discussion of the pathogenesis of extrapyramidal disease, vitamin deficiency, endocrine disorder, myasthenia gravis, epilepsy, and the functional psychoses. Even so, Professor Peters' book is valuable to the non-German reader as an important source of information on recent German work in neuropathology and, in particular, on the work of the school of Walter Spielmeyer to whose memory it is dedicated.


This book concerns itself specially with the pathological changes in the nervous system associated with general medical disease. In chapters such as the one dealing with cerebral manifestations in cardiac disease and in lung disease, the C.N.S. findings are described in the setting of the general system of diseases. This will presumably add to its value for the general physician, but it gives a disjointed impression to the neurologist, whose clinical practice leads him to be quite as much interested in the physiological or biochemical aspect of the lesion as in its site. The book is well produced and the photomicrographs are adequate, but as a contribution to texts of medical neuropathology it has no special merit. Its price in this country seems fantastic.


Neuroeffector junctions are defined by the author as "the junctions between the autonomic postganglionic nerve fibres with the heterogeneous effectors to which they distribute—smooth muscle, cardiac nodal tissue and cardiac muscle, and glands". Peripheral synapses are described as junctions between two conducting elements with similar conducting properties, and in mammals this refers to autonomic ganglia and to the neuromuscular junctions of somatic muscles.

The book amplifies and extends the author's earlier work with the late Prof. W. B. Cannon, and draws freely on the author's later work. It is largely concerned with chemical transmission and emphasizes differences between the two types of junction. The neuroeffector type may be cholinergic or adrenergic with a further division of the latter into the sympathin E and I junctions. The peripheral synapses are considered to be solely cholinergic. The first part of the work deals mainly with the junctions of smooth muscle, and the case for purely chemical mediation in setting up the response in the effector is put forward. The second part deals with striated muscle, and chemical transmission is again considered to be all important. Acetyl choline is the essential transmitter, but it is further aided by potassium ions. The electrical theories of transmission are discussed, and while they are held to play very little part in the neuroeffector transmission, it is suggested that the spike potential of striated muscle has the function of determining the release of acetyl choline at the junction. Any more complete theories of electrical transmission are considered to be quite inadequate, but the author does conclude that further work is needed before the whole story is understood. Such work may indeed show a solution midway between the extreme chemical theory upheld here and the electrical theories.

The book is very well produced and illustrated. There are useful summaries to each chapter, and an extensive bibliography of over 700 references.


"This book is written for students with the purpose of bringing together under one cover a survey of the electrical activity of the nervous system." So writes the author, and she is to be congratulated on succeeding so well in this endeavour. Beginning with the peripheral nerve, she then considers the electrical activity of the spinal cord, special senses, and brain. Clearly written and well produced, this publication will be welcomed by those neurologists and psychologists who are not entirely up-to-date with their knowledge of electrophysiology. A well-chosen list of references follows each of the 18 chapters.


This book, despite its title, which suggests a layman's introduction to psychosomatic medicine, is likely to be of interest and value to neurologists, psychiatrists, and general physicians. Professor Cobb is one of the few practising neuropsychiatrists who is both competent and prepared to attempt a neurological correlation of psychiatric phenomena. That the correlation is still one of possibilities rather than certainties is one of the "necessities of the case", as William James would put it. The present book takes its place as an extension and development of the author's previous works, especially his "Foundations of Neuropsychiatry" and "Borderlands of Psychiatry". Their importance lies more, perhaps, in their point of view than in their factual content. The main bulk is based on the Salmon lectures for 1949, to which certain pièces d'occasion which are relevant to the main theme seem to have been added. This leads to a certain disjointedness in argument, though this is not unduly obtrusive. In the first chapters recent work on the anatomy and physiology of the neurological mechanisms for emotional appreciation and expression are reviewed. Next, the clinical impli-
cations of these facts are considered, and their application in the neuropsychiatric approach is illustrated by reference to anorexia nervosa.

The last few chapters are essays on various related themes. The question of specificity of psychogenic symptoms is discussed: the problem is not solved, but it is refreshing to see it raised again. Freud referred to it by implication in his early studies on hysteria; and Adler was concerned with it in his theories on "organ inferiority". It now obtrudes itself anew in a variety of "psychosomatic" conditions. As knowledge of neurological mechanisms underlying psychic states increases, it is likely to become of increasing interest. The "personality profile", as a guide to psychiatric diagnosis and prognosis, is also assessed with some much needed criticism.

The book is valuable because it appraises, rather than simply quotes, facts. It avoids dogmatism and has something of the "benevolent scepticism" which still recommends Bernard Hart's writings on psychopathology to a wide audience.

If neuropsychiatry is to become an integrated discipline it would seem that an attitude of mind must be developed in which psychiatric symptoms, small and great, are given their own value, and are considered as the correlates of brain changes, physiological, biochemical, and electrical, even though the exact relationship, the bridge between the two, may elude us. This book, with Professor Cobb's other cognate works, is at any rate the hope of a prolegomenon to such a discipline.


This is the third edition of a book which has become widely known and valued for the clear and exhaustive description it contains of all aspects of the normal encephalogram. The various techniques of encephalography are reviewed, and there is a detailed consideration of the indications for the method and of the effects produced by intrathecal injection of different gases. However, the greater part of the book is concerned with the correlation of the radiological appearances with the anatomical structures outlined by the gas.

In describing the indications for encephalography, the authors recommend that it should be used in every case of organic brain disease in which there is doubt about the diagnosis, provided the intracranial pressure is not raised. This statement should now, perhaps, be slightly modified in view of recent developments in cerebral angiography to which encephalography may frequently be complementary. Not everyone will agree with the details of technique applied at the Neurological Institute at New York, but the descriptions given of many of the numerous methods used there and the excellent bibliography enable the merits of each to be compared.

The many illustrations are well reproduced and the points described can, with very few exceptions, be clearly seen. In a work which is so complete, it would, however, be an advantage if an addition was made to the standard views used by the authors, in order to include a postero-anterior half-axial projection in the erect posture. This would enable a further description of the appearances, in the antero-posterior plane, of the cisternae pontis and ambienz and of the fourth ventricle to be given, as distortions of these outlines are of importance in the diagnosis of lesions in the posterior fossa by means of encephalography.

This book is a valuable source of information for purposes of reference, and it provides a firm basis on which to build an evaluation of the abnormal. A companion volume on the abnormal pneumoencephalogram has recently been published.


This short introduction to the study of nerve injuries is a disappointing publication. The approach to the subject is so elementary that many interesting and important aspects of the subject are completely ignored. However, the reviewer has recently been referring to the magnificent studies of nerve injuries by Foerster after the first world war, and this perhaps has led to his viewing this new publication with an unduly critical eye.

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


