Reviews and Notices of Books.


Dr. Gardner Murphy has undertaken an ambitious task and in performing it produced a valuable work. He has attempted a systematised review of various phases of psychological history from the seventeenth century to the present, devoting more than half his volume to developments since the beginning of the twentieth. The reader is taken from the days of Hobbes, Berkeley, Locke, Hume, and Kant, to those of Mill, Bain, Darwin, Helmholtz, Wundt, and other philosophers and psychologists of the nineteenth; and his rapid introduction to these great names and to the movements which they initiated or supported is succeeded by a more detailed account of contemporary research in the same field, with a sketch of such recent aspects of the subject as behaviourism, child psychology, psychoanalysis, personality, social psychology, and so forth. This attractive flight over years and generations provides the student with a conspectus of psychological results to a greater extent than of psychological theory; the author's aim is to show how one field after another has been conquered by scientific method, and in consequence much of more purely theoretical or philosophic interest has been left untouched. As it is, the consecutive chapters make excellent reading, especially perhaps those dealing with present-day points of view. A supplementary chapter on contemporary German psychology, from the pen of Dr. Heinrich Kluver, contains a précis of the 'personalistic psychology' of Stern, the 'Gestalt psychology' of Wertheimer and others, the 'developmental psychology' of Krueger, and others still which need not be particularised.

All this is very well done indeed; it must have been a labour of love. The sections on 'physiological psychology' are, we consider, less satisfactory and less adequate; the account of present-day theories of aphasia is too sketchy to be of value, and insufficient stress is laid, in commenting on the cortical experiments of Lashley and others, on obvious differences between the brains of rats and men. The problem of sleep is rather more advanced towards solution than can be gathered from the brief paragraph assigned to it; and the statement that "affective functions are to a large extent degree dependent upon the midbrain" it would be easy to traverse.

Another valuable monograph on a special variety of intracranial tumour bears witness to the fruitful collaboration of Professor Harvey Cushing with his neurosurgical associates, and incidentally again illustrates the wealth of clinical material at his disposal. What arouses the reader’s admiration, however, is not so much the amount of material as the excellent way in which it is investigated and the lessons it teaches marshalled so as to increase the sum of neurological knowledge.

There are two major groups of blood-vessel tumours, viz. angiomatous malformations, and neoplasms made up of blood-vessel elements and springing from vascular tissues (angioblastomas). On histological grounds the former can be identified by the invariable presence of neural elements between the vascular formations. They are classifiable as capillary (telangiectatic), venous, and arteriovenous, are mainly superficial in distribution, and none are easy to deal with surgically. The latter class, rarely associated with external manifestations such as nævi, are found with regularity in the cerebellum, seem to be practically unknown elsewhere, and vary from a cystic to a solid type. Histologically they are separable from meningiomas and other tumour groups by the existence of a reticular network within them.

This model monograph is complete with illustrations, index, and bibliography.


An epidemic of poliomyelitis occurred in Winnipeg and Manitoba from July to November, 1928. Some 435 cases were reported, with 37 deaths (about 8.5 per cent.). Much the most interesting and practically important part of this publication deals with the preparation and distribution of convalescent serum and the investigations of its action, and it ought to be studied and pondered over by those to whom poliomyelitis is a concern. By advertisement in public prints a large number of donors were traced and secured; each was paid at the rate of $5 for 50 c.c. of blood, or less, and $10 for quantities between 50 and 100 c.c. In a specially examined group of 161 patients, 17 died, 54 were left with residual paralysis, and 90 made a complete recovery. Serum was administered to 74 of these cases in the pre-paralytic stage, with the result that none died and only five exhibited subsequent palsy. This is a striking comment on the efficacy of convalescent serum at that stage, for where it was not given till after the onset of paralysis the ratios of death and residual sequelæ were distinctly high. As for spread of infection, the Report declares that “it is reasonable to consider as a distinct possibility transmission of the disease from individual to individual in some way at present not definitely known.”
Revision de la Doctrine des Localisations Cérébrales. By R. Brugia.
For some time not a few neurologists have been sceptical of the existence of any schematic anatomical localization of function within the cerebral cortex. The inconstancy and transient nature of paralysis following purely cortical lesions of the motor area have supported in some measure this attitude of doubt. Prof. Brugia goes further, and denies altogether any localization of function—not only in the cortex, but in the cerebrum as a whole. His thesis affirms that within the nervous system there are no centres concerned with the collection of stimuli, their transformation into impulses, the genesis of new energies or the coordination of results directed towards a final purpose. For him "the cortex possesses no static imprints of reality." Pierre Marie has written a refreshing introduction to this iconoclastic monograph, recommending it as a challenge to a mass of facts and theories, much of which is probably accepted without question. Brugia's contribution may thus assist in orientating our data as to the existence of specialized cortical areas possessing peculiar functional significance.

The volume of papers written by various pupils, associates and friends of the late Sir Frederick Mott and dedicated to his memory comprises a fine series of original contributions of all kinds—anatomical, pathological, psychological, psychotherapeutic, sociological, even phonological—bearing witness to the wide-ranging interests of a man whose loss is still deplored. Their titles cannot here be reproduced, nor any special comment made on their nature and value. Numbering some 30 in all, they form an impressive collection which every one who knew Sir Frederick Mott or came in contact with him should seek to possess. We are conscious as we turn these pages of a sense of deep regret that such an offering was not made while he was still with us. For some reason or other the Festschrift idea has never made much appeal in England, but they do these things far better abroad. Our post-mortem kindness is poor compared with the compliment our affection and respect might have paid him by the presentation during life of such a thesaurus as this.

The fourth edition of this textbook was reviewed at some length in this Journal (Vol. IV, p. 287). The present edition is slightly larger, and has been subjected
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