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
to rigorous revision and, in some places, considerable modification. In view of the fact that it embraces both neurology and psychiatry the authors have accomplished a difficult task in presenting so much in a handy-sized volume which is not too heavy for comfortable reading. It makes more of an appeal to the beginner in neurology and psychiatry and to the intelligent practitioner than to the expert, notwithstanding the erudition of its writers and the many useful references to the literature, seeing that rarities are sometimes overlooked and the latest developments sometimes insufficiently defined. Vaccination encephalitis should be annotated, and the neural complications of exanthems and specific fevers. Myelitis and spinal abscess are not described from the clinician’s viewpoint in adequate detail, nor is vascular disease of the cord—the authors’ descriptions are more topographical than nosological and etiological. Schilder’s encephalitis and its cognate states also deserve attention. For the limits of the work it is however excellently done, has long been the recipient of appreciation, and can once more be commended for its all-round high level of accomplishment.


This new textbook of clinical neurology belies its title to some extent, seeing that it embodies in reality a system of nervous diseases organic and functional, with good if succinct descriptions of a neuropathological kind and with sufficient neurophysiological details to render semiology interesting and understandable. Under the headings ‘Spinal Cord,’ ‘Peripheral Nerves,’ ‘Brain,’ and ‘The Neuroses,’ an effort is made to cover the field of neurology from a clinical viewpoint; less attention is paid to disease-entities than to syndromes and yet where possible the former are delineated and a pathological basis adopted for purposes of classification. All this, in our opinion, is well done, while good illustrations and a certain number of bibliographical references add to the merits of the work. The present-day advances in neurology are represented by a modern outlook as regards ‘The Epilepsies’ and ‘The Neuroses,’ for example; and rarities, on the other hand, are not dismissed too curtly. For the beginner in neurological studies and for the busy practitioner this volume is well calculated to appeal mainly by reason of its relative brevity and descriptive clearness.


This, the authentic ‘textbook’ of psychoanalysis, was reviewed in our pages on two previous occasions (Vol. I, p. 304, Vol. III, p. 307). The present
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 edition, but little modified, contains and embodies the teaching of Professor Freud in regard to three main subjects, viz., the psychopathology of everyday life, dreams, and neuroses. As everyone knows, it is with precisely these three topics, utilised for research, that the author made his attack on academic psychology and his contribution to psychotherapeusis. Whatever developments have since arisen (and they are many), psychoanalysis as a system is based on Freudian theories of dream and neurosis. Here is his corpus doctrinæ and here his gospel. Clothed in a garb of smooth English, it commends itself to people of intelligence because of the simplicity of the language, and to the professional man because of its sincerity.


Mr. Anderson's vademecum of staining methods for histological study of the nervous system is just the right size; it is neither too scrappy to irritate by omissions nor too bulky and elaborate for convenience. Those who have worked in neuropathological laboratories themselves will at once appreciate the completely practical nature of this compilation of technique; it abounds with little 'tips' gathered from experience and calculated to smooth the way to technical excellence. Further, as we scan its pages we meet on occasion with expressions of personal opinion that can have emanated only from one who possesses an enthusiasm for his subject and who has tried to make it interesting. This slender volume is of rather limited appeal, as is natural, but all who use it will value it.


Recent contributions in this encyclopaedia of methodology, devoted to the physiology of nerve and muscle, include an excellent resume of present-day knowledge of chronaxy by Dr. Henri Laugier of Paris, translated into German by Dr. Nellmann of Tübingen. It is highly technical but clearly written and appropriately illustrated. Dr. Spiegel's article on the measurement of tonus, equally technical, nevertheless contains not a little of clinical value, applicable to bedside examination. That by Dr. Martin Kochmann on the investigation of smooth-muscle organs is of greater interest to the professional physiologist, as are those by Dr. Erich Schilf on the determination of the latent period in muscle and by Dr. Nikolaus Bernstein on kymocyclographic registration. Dr. Wilhelm Steinhausen deals with the elastic properties of muscle and the theoretical bases on which their study is founded.

A little book on the reflex phenomena associated with spastic paralysis contains nothing that is really new or novel, although what is known is well set forth and on the whole fairly representative of present views. Some attention is given to clinical differences between the reflectivity of upper and lower limbs, and to contrasts between flexor and extensor mechanisms.


The new volume of this publication is described as a Festschrift in honour of the 60th birthday of Dr. Stekel and contains a number of different articles on psychopathological subjects. Those on depersonalisation by Dr. E. Gutheil and on kleptomania by Dr. Max Friedemann are of considerable interest. An astonishing case of fetishism is narrated by Dr. van Tricht. Several contributions come from Dr. Stekel himself.


This volume is based upon a year’s lectures delivered at the People’s Institute in Vienna. The contents are divided into two parts, the first part dealing with human behaviour and the second with the science of character. The author’s views are already widely known. Here his individual psychology is presented in a somewhat popular and very readable form. He endeavours to show that all human psychic phenomena are subject on the one hand to the rule of communal life, and on the other are influenced by individual striving for power and superiority. Specific character traits are in no way hereditary, but arise in the course of mental development, and lead in a unit direction to the goal which is constantly present, more or less consciously, for everyone. Vanity and ambition are specially stressed as affects which, when exaggerated, are at the root of much disorderly individual development and stunting of the social feeling.

Dr. Adler has made highly valuable contributions to the understanding of human nature, but one cannot help feeling that it is more complex than he makes out and cannot adequately be explained from any one particular angle only. Having started out with his definite concept, it seems as though, somehow or other, everything is made to fit it. At times in his illustrative cases this strikes us as only too apparent. There is a good deal of redundancy in the book, but that is perhaps hardly a fault when the subject is directed to a wide
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We can, at any rate, conclude that these pages make stimulating and suggestive reading. The author's enthusiasm and sincerity are highly persuasive and no student of human nature can afford to neglect his interesting views.

C. S. R.

As a token of appreciation and gratitude on the completion of 35 years of scientific teaching and research this volume is dedicated to the distinguished neurologist Professor Edward Flatau by a number of colleagues and friends, Polish and otherwise. Nearly all the contributions are written in that language, but some are in French or German, and three in English. Numbering 68 in all, they include many of considerable originality and value, and form a useful addition to a neurological library.

There is no authority who can deal with psychiatry more lucidly and interestingly than Dr. William White. These twelve lectures to medical students who are on the threshold of the study of mental medicine are a model of how the subject-matter should be presented. The logical order in which the material is given is satisfying to the mind. Its contents are ideally set forth for the budding student and should prove useful to any reader who desires a rational concept of the psychoses.

C. S. R.

This small volume is an addition to the well-known "Students' Aids Series." The aim of the book is to offer a means of rapid revision following a study of the larger textbooks on the subject, and to emphasize those points useful to students studying for a diploma in psychological medicine. Though psychology does not easily lend itself to such treatment, the writer has well fulfilled these objects. We might draw attention to faults of omission and commission, but considering the difficulty of such a compilation it is perhaps surprising that there are not more. Delusions are not mentioned, nor is the psychopathology of hallucinations referred to. It is nevertheless a useful addition to the series.

C. S. R.
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C. S. R.

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