rare condition in which seen objects are misplaced in the visual field, being referred to a site different from their actual one (right instead of left, above instead of below, etc.). Apparently the first recorded instance of this anomaly is that of Beyer (1895), who suffered himself from migraine and who made the curious observation that during the occurrence of the migrainous visual phenomena objects situated in reality in the left peripheral visual field seemed to have their locus on the right, and higher up. Subsequent allusions in a sparse literature are summarised by the authors, who then furnish a long analysis of several personal cases of the same class, forming indeed in one or two instances an illustration of mirage effects—a "fata morgana of the visual field," as it has been termed.

As a result of their investigations, which have been conducted in a careful and elaborate fashion, the authors conclude that two factors contribute to the development of this visual allâ€œsthesia, viz., (1) a disorder interfering in part or in whole with the functions of central vision, and (2) a release or escape of function of certain components out of the total influence exercised by the occipital convexity on the area striata. Thus in one case exhibiting loss of central vision, preservation of the peripheral field, and a confusion of left with right in visual space, two lesions were discovered, one (an old one) implicating the left occipital pole, and the other (recent and progressive) starting from the right occipital convexity and spreading towards the calcarine region. This monograph raises many questions of a difficult and rather technical kind which are nevertheless of much interest to the scientific neurologist, and merits reading in extenso by all to whom the subject appeals.

S. A. K. W.


The occurrence of spontaneous haemorrhagic effusions in various nervous affections, organic or otherwise, deserves close attention. In respect of hysteria and allied psychoneurotic conditions a wave of scepticism seems to have succeeded the supposedly somewhat uncritical acceptance of the genuineness of the phenomena by older writers, and the present-day attitude is rather one which attributes them to artefact. The inaccuracy and unjustifyability of this way of considering them are strongly animadverted on by Dr. Schindler, who believes such spontaneous bleeding to be much more common than is usually thought, and cites various personal cases (both male and female) proving the contrary. Some of these, indeed, are distinctly impressive, as are also his selected quotations from the large literature on the subject. He provides the reader with an interesting excursus on the question of hysterical stigmata mimicking the wounds of the Christus.
According to his researches, the following conditions should be distinguished: hæmophilia; senile purpura (traumatic in origin); avitaminoses (scurvy, Barlow's disease); blood diseases; choleæmia; toxicoses and infections (hæmorrhages in typhus, smallpox, malaria, scarlatina, syphilis, uræmia, benzol, salvarsan, and many more); thrombopenia. There still remains the wide and controversial group of hæmorrhagic diatheses in association with neurotic and psychoneurotic states, a group the authenticity of which can no longer be denied, and he concludes that they are insufficiently explained by vasomotor dysfunction, for they arise in differing fashions and affect any and every conceivable part of the neuronic system. Relying on the physiological occurrence of spontaneous bleeding in the female sex (menstruation), and its admittedly common alteration by psychogenic agencies, Dr. Schindler argues that too much attention has hitherto been devoted to blood chemistry and vessel wall, and too little to the possibility of central changes in the sympathetic ganglia and corresponding cerebral (hypothalamic) centres. Allusion is made to the recent work of Castex, who has found profound alterations in the upper sympathetic ganglia in two cases of symmetrical purpura in arteriopathic subjects.


*Periodic* family paralysis is a rare condition, opportunities for studying which do not often arise. The present monograph is based on the clinical examination of four cases, coming from three families, and provides an excellent summary of all that is known on the subject, with references to the literature since 1918. As the pathology of the affection is practically unknown theories of pathogenesis, diverse and conflicting, flourish. According to the authors it is possible to exclude all sources for the motor phenomena which are situated central to the motor nerve end-plates; their own view is that the disorder resides in the muscle cells, in that part of the function of muscle innervation which is dependent on the vegetative component (as opposed to the oxydative-chemical component) in muscle tissue. Yet there are certain clinical features of periodic paralysis to which they might have given rather more consideration, and which are a little difficult to explain on the view that it is a variety of 'myopathy,' viz., its occasional hemiplegic type, its association with epilepsy, and, indeed, their own discovery that during the attack the electrocardiogram of the patient exhibits certain definite abnormalities. As far as we have noticed no allusion is made to the phenomena of cataplexy, which in a sense represents an acute and extremely brief attack of myoplegia, characterised none the less by atony, immobility, and loss of tendon reflexes.

The problem of this disease-condition is peculiarly involved, and the monograph under review clearly states the limits of present-day knowledge in regard to it.
L’Epilepsie; conceptions actuelles sur sa pathogénie et son traitement.

The researches of the past thirty years on the pathogenesis of the epileptic states and in particular the employment of more accurate biochemical standards have resulted in an accumulated mass of data which is difficult to sift. Herein lies the value of such a book as the present, which strives to evaluate the evidence collected, to separate the important from the unimportant, and to review the entire situation in the light of modern conceptions. We note a gradual shift from clinical and experimental methods to those of the biochemical laboratory and there is a real danger that attention may be diverted too far into metabolic bypaths without material increase in our knowledge of the epilepsies. Dr. Pagniez enumerates and examines the new matter; as might be expected, however, his conclusions are purely tentative, and we do not see any immediate prospect of solution of the old problems—the neurigenic as opposed to humoral conceptions; the priority of vascular over neuronic discharge; the rigid separation of cause from effect—in short, the vexed problems of last century remain as intangible as ever. This work is to be recommended, however, as a balanced and useful presentation of the subject, and it contains an adequate bibliography.

M. C.


This little pamphlet represents the text of the eleventh Earl Grey Memorial Lecture delivered by Sir Farquhar Buzzard at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The address, which was read to a lay audience, gives a clear and interesting account of the development of neurology as a branch of philosophy, and an able expose of the present scope of the subject. In an easy and scholarly manner the author describes how our knowledge of the science has developed along five distinct avenues, viz., those of anatomy, physiology, pathology, psychology and clinical observation.
Reviews and Notices of Books

M. C.

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