
The neurologist will find not a little of direct clinical interest in Dr. Hess's elaborate neurophysiological monograph on the regulation of the circulation, even if there is much more whose heuristic value remains to be determined. A minute study of arterial reaction to chemical stimuli is followed by an investigation of the neural factor in circulatory control and of the role played by venous and splenic elements in the same. A chapter on the regulation of cardiac activity is included. Perhaps the chief value of the monograph rests in its critical analysis of the interrelation of the different components in circulatory function (heart, arteries, veins, capillaries, etc.) and of their synergism and antagonism. The nutrition and depression reflexes of the circulation are also examined at some length. Of these, the former helps to further the service of the circulatory apparatus to the organs it supplies and is adequately stimulated by chemical changes in these tissues; the latter serves to inhibit states of tension in the vascular system and is awakened by stimuli of a physical kind. Difficult and uncertain questions connected with the central (cerebral) representation of vascular mechanisms are discussed in a final section.

The monograph possesses an excellent index and a long bibliography.


Dr. Layani has written a useful monograph on acrocyanosis, which he defines as a permanent cyanosis of the extremities, painless, coupled with a reduction of skin temperature and with trophic and secretory changes. It is associated also with alterations of a more general kind, viz., hypotonia of the sympathetic system, pluriglandular disorder, and cardiovascular hypotrophy. The condition, which is of minor significance and rarely inconveniences the patient, occurs by itself or in the presence of one or other of the 'ecto-sympathoses' (acroparæsthesia, Raynaud's syndrome, erythromelalgia, sclerodermia, etc.).

For pathophysiological basis the author lays stress on its causation through capillary stagnation the result of capillaro-venous hypotonia; the latter in its turn is attributable to involvement of the vasomotor neurones in organic cases, or to vasomotor derangement consequent on pluriglandular defect in those where no organic affection can be found. Good therapeutic service is rendered by strong doses of extracts of ovary, thyroid, pituitary, and suprarenals.

A small primer by an expert contains the marrow of the doctrine and art of lipreading. It offers a complete series of lessons progressive in character, commencing with the rudiments of the subject, and is so clearly expressed as to be capable of being understood by all into whose hands it may come. The deaf person is taught to help himself by mirror study and feeling the movements of his own muscles. By careful and above all by patient study along its lines he will in the end largely overcome the “diabolical disadvantages of deafness” graphically described by the talented authoress of this little handbook.


This is a portion of a life story of a young girl told in her own words. Dr. Adler has never seen her and has no more knowledge of her than the facts which she herself gives and which are here available to the reader. In these pages he has endeavoured to draw a picture of the procedure followed in a psychological analysis according to his school of thought. Throughout, as the story is unfolded, he makes comments and gives explanations and interpretations of the material. In this way he clearly expounds his well-known special views on the problems of the neurotic. Without doubt, there is no better method of driving home any special theory than by presenting an illustrative case, but we cannot help realising that other psychological interpretations, and perhaps as convincing, might in many instances be more feasible. In the case of Miss R., though many of her symptoms can be rationally viewed as originating in her excessive greed for superiority and for victory over her environment, the later fully-fledged compulsion neurosis surely involves other and more subtle mechanisms. The book is readable and of considerable interest, but it is difficult for us to conceive that any psychology can be scientifically based upon such a circumscribed field of reaction. Dr. Adler’s enthusiasm and dogmatism are alluring and he has made valuable contributions to the pathology of the neuroses. We must, however, bear in mind that there are other angles of approach to the subject which should not be neglected.


The thesis of Dr. Gopcevich, the work for which has been carried out in the clinic of Professor Alajouanine, illustrates well the application of purely clinical methods to the study of physiological problems. A full description is furnished
of those actually employed (some are novel and all are instructive) in the 
estimation of static muscular hypotonia as it occurs in a number of differing 
pathological conditions. A distinction is drawn between postural tonus and 
postural reflexes, and it is held that the former modifies the latter, which require 
for their demonstration different technical procedures from those for the other. 
On the other hand, a postural reflex, or reflex of attitude, is nothing else than 
the result of the co-ordination of tonic muscular phenomena for purposes of 
equilibration, and as such cannot be wholly independent of muscular tonus 
itself. The author argues that the centres for postural reflexes must be at a 
higher level than tonigenic centres.

The Hygiene of Marriage. By Isabel Emslie Hutton, M.D. London: 
William Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd. 1929. Pp. 125. Price 5s.

Psychopathologists are aware, perhaps more than any one else, how much 
education on this subject is needed. Such knowledge, too, must emanate from 
an authoritative source. It is not, however, an easy task to present the 
necessary information in an ideal form. We feel that this writer has fulfilled 
the purpose and the whole subject is scientifically and lucidly covered in small 
compass. In order that the book might incorporate the whole field of repro-
ductive life, new chapters on menstruation, the menopause, and sterility, have 
been added in this second edition. Other chapters, too, have been amplified 
and brought up to date. We can cordially recommend these pages to those to 
whom the problems of matrimony are all-important.

C. S. R.
Reviews and Notices of Books

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