
English translations have familiarised the neurologist and psychologist in recent years with Pavlov’s monumental work on the conditioned reflex, and incidentally have rendered understanding of its abundant and technical literature less arduous. Pavlov himself has repeatedly indicated the possible applications of the doctrine to biological, medical, and psychological questions; and this is the main thesis of the volume under review. ‘Experimental reflexology’, as it is somewhat cumbrously termed, will also prove of service in paedogogy, according to Dr. Ischlondsky, whose general conclusions may briefly be sketched. The ‘instincts’ of the psychologist are nothing else than unconditioned reflexes; most, no doubt, are more complex than those capable of investigation in a physiological laboratory, but the difference is quantitative only, not qualitative. They may be described as complexes of common reflex reactions, serving a useful purpose for the animal concerned.

No scientific classification of human instincts (innate reflexes) on reflex lines has as yet been carried out, for not enough is known of their origins; yet their genealogy must some day be elucidated, since knowledge of it is indispensable to an appreciation of the activities of the neuropsyche in man. For all living creatures the basic, fundamental reflex, from which all others are derived, is the reflex (or instinct) of life, which is independent of the organism’s position in the animal scale, and holds true for man equally with the one-celled infusorian. The goal or aim of life is nothing other than the fulfilment of the demands of the life-reflex. Self-defence, nourishment, sexual, and orientation reflexes are dealt with, and others of no less significance. There is a great deal of physiological matter in the book of deep interest even if the author’s deductions therefrom may sometimes appear a little strained. It should prove informative to all students of the conditioned reflex.


In this second part of Dr. Ischlondsky’s general work entitled ‘Neuropsyche und Hirnrinde’ a bold attempt is made to seek a physiological interpretation
for the phenomena of so-called deep psychology and in particular for the data of psychoanalysis. The mechanics, the dynamics, of human neuropsychical function are sought objectively, and however vague the idea of tracing an objective basis for manifestations in the realm of thought may at first seem, it is at least far removed from any correlation of mere morphology with psychology. With the statics, so to speak, of the problem the author is little concerned. His researches are erected on the fundamental conception that the conditioned reflex underlies neuropsychical function. Excitation and inhibition processes are opposed to each other, and according as one or the other prevails in given circumstances will its expression be apparent in the field of consciousness. When equilibrium obtains between the two, under conditions here fully examined, states of sleep, hypnosis, catalepsy and others of an analogous kind develop, according as the balance is normal or abnormal. An effort is made, ingeniously suggestive, to explain the function of speech on conditioned reflex lines.

The major portion of the book, however, is devoted to a consideration of psychoanalytic conceptions and facts from a similar standpoint, and certain 'classical' cases in the history of Freudian doctrine (e.g. those of Elisabeth von R. and Cäcilie M.) are re-examined with this end in view. Instead of tracing a chain of psychical links in the causation of the symptoms the author finds for each of these a dynamic, physiological explanation in the play of conditioned reflexes. In general terms, for example, a neurotic symptom is not immediately expressive of a 'suppressed affect' but of an 'inhibition lesion.' To follow him through all the working out of his thesis is for reasons of space impracticable, but the reader cannot fail to appreciate the author's skill in its application, nor can he quarrel with his main argument, that if physiological research should not meddle with events of the psychical series all the phenomena of nature, however complicated and enigmatic, are capable of being conceived from the standpoint of time and space, and their mechanisms of origination and development similarly. In other words, an objective basis for psychical events can be made the subject of exact, scientific, methodological investigation.

Grundlagen und Entwicklungsgeschichte der kindlichen Neurose.
By Dr. Erich Benjamin, Professor of Children's Diseases in Munich.

Problems of neurosis in children are being assailed at home and abroad by a host of investigators, and this latest contribution on the 'nervous child' has features of its own which will interest both physicians and teachers. The attention of the writer is focussed mainly on the 'Trotzperiode'—the period between two and four years when the child is prone to exhibit traits of defence and defiance against the demands and claims of others older than himself. Towards the end of this time of stress comes what the writer calls the child's
first puberty,'—about the age of three and a half—when a series of symptoms (requiring some 15 lines for catalogue) of a neurotic kind may be expected, most of which are coloured by an erotic tone. The argument here advanced is to the effect that should the symptoms of these times persist beyond their appropriate period they ipso facto constitute evidence of youthful neurosis. A distinction is drawn between their relative incidence on the two sexes, and statistics are given which go to prove that they linger longer in the boy than the girl. It is held that the clue to the neuroses of later years is to be sought in the reactions of these pre-puberty epochs.


To the neurologist the title of this book is rather misleading, for the author does not deal with aphasia as a whole but confines his attention almost entirely to a series of cases in which a condition of partial deafness was discovered. In some respects they would be classified by the neurologist as instances of congenital auditory imperception: and it is of considerable interest and no little importance to note that Dr. Ewing was able to demonstrate in six out of ten of his cases a condition of normal hearing for a certain range of low tones coupled with marked deafness to high tones. For these he has devised the expression 'high-frequency deaf.' That the auditory defect was at least in some degree responsible for the clinical condition seems clear.

Of the four other cases studied Dr. Ewing remarks that their clinical state differed radically from that 'due to injuries of the brain, studied by other workers and described as 'aphasia,''' and he prefers the term 'linguistic retardation.' Whether this distinction is justified by his description of their symptoms is open to question.


A book originally written in 1912 and reprinted at intervals ever since, with additions and modifications to modernise it, needs no commendation from us. Dr. Bernard Hart's little volume must surely be known wherever the mind diseased is studied, and that means, universally. The combination of clear thinking with graphic writing herein manifested proves irresistible, as the wide circulation of the book shows. In view of the continuing demand for it, we should like Dr. Hart to consider whether in his explanation of hysterical phenomena (p. 83) incongruity as between conflicting mental processes—a general condition—really is adequate to explain the specificity of numerous hysterical symptoms. And if (p. 44) retrograde amnesia is characteristic of
hysteria, why not insert that it is equally frequent in cerebral concussion? Emotional phenomena in connexion with incurable cancer, and spes phthisica (p. 105), are assigned by Dr. Hart a psychogenic origin; perhaps some day he will allow that they are equally capable of explanation from a purely physiological standpoint.


On its first appearance this volume received favourable review in this Journal (Vol. VIII, p. 86), and in its new form is sure of further appreciation. The second edition includes an added chapter on 'The Conception of Dissociation,' amplifying the author's views in regard to the respective contributions to psychopathology of Janet and of Freud. Briefly, the book constitutes a detailed and well-considered review of the development of psychopathology since the beginning of the century and of its present place among the subdivisions of medicine; it also contains discussions on 'The Psychology of Rumour' and on 'The Methods of Psychotherapy.'


In convenient form, well printed and illustrated, Prof. Lehmann offers the practitioner and neurologist a useful and up-to-date description of the procedures of neurosurgery, which covers a remarkably wide field. The neurological surgeon has been steadily pushing his researches into regions formerly considered inaccessible, and while his major operations have increased in range of possibility, those of a minor class are no less important from the standpoint of therapeutics. In this handy volume will be found accounts of all present-day methods, including work on the sympathetic system, epilepsy, neuralgia, spastic conditions, etc. A book of this class may be cordially recommended.


Dr. Radovici has written a meritorious synthetic and analytic study of neurosyphilis in its manifold aspects; and, as is proper, no less than one-third of the volume is devoted to questions of treatment. We note his hesitation as regards the vexed problem of neurotropic and dermatropic types of virus; his conclusion is against the dualistic theory. More significance attaches to the
mode of entry of the virus, though he feels it premature to assert categorically
that the blood route leads to general paralysis and tabes, the subarachnoid to
cerebrospinal syphilis. This view, however, will not commend itself to all, nor
his contention that the encephalitis of the former affection is independent of
accompanying syphilitic meningitis.

Although numerous authors are cited, the monograph lacks a list of
bibliographical references, as well as an index.

Paralyse Générale et Malarialtherapie. By R. Leboy, Medécin-chef à
l’Asile Sainte-Anne, and G. Medakovitch, Chef de laboratoire à l’Asile
Sainte-Anne. With an introduction by Prof. Dr. Wagner-Jauregg,

An impressive work of no less than 500 pages, complete with bibliography
(55 pages) and index, embraces all that is known, or worth knowing, of the
malarial method of treatment for general paralysis. A succinct historical
introduction reveals, what few perhaps have adequately realised, how definitely
the idea of curing one ill by another was appreciated by certain of the fore-
fathers of medicine. Of the technical details we need not here furnish any précis,
but it is of significance to note the authors’ decision that in cases where the
malaria method fails, or has to be abandoned, supplementary treatment of an
intensive kind with arsenicals, mercury and iodide in large doses proves highly
efficacious. So far as we have observed, the one aspect of this wide-ranging
subject which receives little attention is the question of the influence of natural
malaria on neurosyphilitic development; otherwise, the monograph is replete
with information and may be consulted with advantage by all who deal with
the general paralytic in hospital or asylum.

Modern Psychotherapy. By Emanuel Miller, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.,
Honorary Psychopathologist, West End Hospital for Nervous Disease, etc.

This slender volume in the ‘Modern Treatment Series’ edited by Dr. F. G.
Crokshank contains the meat of present-day psychotherapeutics with very
little of the less digestible elements. Concerned largely with hypnosis, sugges-
tion, re-education, as well as with the therapeutic doctrines of Freud, Jung,
and Adler, it apprises the value of these respective methods, and, fortunately,
indicates their limitations no less than their applications. The approach is
purely psychological, and rightly so, although a short chapter on ‘Psycho-
therapy in Organic Disease’ is included; this, however, deals almost exclusively
with the psychical depression of some chronic cases. The writer’s pleasing
literary style enhances the readable nature of his contribution.
Die zentrale Abstimmung der Sehsphäre. By Dr. Hans Hoff, Vienna.


The purpose of this investigation is to determine to what extent and in what way or ways the function of a given region of the cerebral cortex is capable of being influenced by the function of areas in its vicinity or of other cortical mechanisms related to it physiologically. Choice is made of the visual cortex, and its connexions with the functions of sleep, of the vestibular apparatus, the sensory cortex, and so forth, are studied seriatim. Among other inferences from this study Dr. Hoff holds that with any sensory impression a whole series of centres are thrown into functional activity, and this renders it necessary to revise limited conceptions of cerebral localization. Contraction of a muscular group from electrical excitation of the motor area has little to do, in a sense, with a complete co-ordinated movement of a limb. It is here suggested that, in addition to their proper function, cortical 'centres' also act as 'points' at which impulses are braked, sent on, or diverted.

Techniques Histologiques de Neuropathologie. By Ivan Bertrand,


No laboratory of pathology or neuropathology should fail to acquire this histological compendium, written by a master of the art and embodying clear and practical descriptions of technical procedures of all the kinds in vogue to-day. It possesses a proper and adequate index and many references to original papers and other sources of information.


In 1902 Rossolimo described a reflex procedure of the following nature: with the patient lying on his back, limbs in extension, the plantar surface of the toes (toe pulp) is lightly but firmly stuck by the observer's fingers (held half-flexed) from below up; after a momentary diversion in a dorsal direction the toes contract with a definite flexion movement comparable to that of a tendon reflex, sometimes with a component of abduction also. This reflex was noted originally in cases of pyramidal involvement. To its study Dr. Goldflam devotes a monograph of more than 250 pages.

He finds it is highly characteristic of disseminated sclerosis, and may be demonstrated before a Babinski reflex develops; and he uses it by way of differential diagnosis between spinal compression and the former. He also states that absence of a Rossolimo reflex, with a positive Babinski response, suggests (in the case of hemiplegia) a capsular lesion; but the reverse is indicative of a cortical lesion. For numerous other clinical details the monograph should be consulted.

In nine cases of deeply placed frontal tumours Dr. Geerling found a monocytosis in the blood (large mononuclears) ranging round 10 per cent. or higher, whereas in a series of tumours localised elsewhere no such increase in percentage was seen. A number of experimental lesions of destructive nature and varying size were made in rabbits and their blood subsequently examined. The conclusion is, that in bilateral lesions of the frontal lobes, provided they are deep enough to invade the basal ganglia, a relative monocytosis follows.


The fifth edition of this now well-known handbook contains but little new matter. Short accounts have been added on the uses and technique of ventriculography and encephalography and on the more recent methods for the employment of hypertonic solutions for the temporary relief of increased intracranial tension. As a concise guide to the examination of the nervous system it can be confidently recommended.


This little vade mecum is for the student entering on psychiatry and is composed of three divisions, dealing respectively with the patient's symptoms, his examination, and the pathogenesis of mental affections. Within its limits it serves a useful purpose.


This little member of the 'Modern Treatment Series' will be welcome to many members of the profession whose knowledge of spa treatment is only second-hand.

It provides an admirable résumé not only of the principles on which treatment by hydrological methods should be based but also of the different methods available and their appropriate uses. The authors have been careful to make no undue claims for the benefits to be obtained from spa treatment but they have succeeded in indicating clearly the proper rôle which such treatment can play in the relief of the many disorders for which the internal administration or the external application of mineral waters may properly be recommended.

There is much of direct interest to the neurologist in this compilation, but not enough. The nervous disease-conditions specifically discussed from a physiotherapeutic view embrace hemiplegia, tabes, infantile paralysis, disseminated sclerosis, neuritis, neurasthenia, headache, migraine, tic douloureux, and insomnia. Though a special section is assigned to radium we find no mention of it, or of X-ray therapy, in the treatment of tumours of the neuraxis, while there are other nervous conditions not here included in which physiotherapy of one or other kind justifies its adoption, or is worthy of trial (syringomyelia, hysteria, torticollis, forms of occupation neurosis, etc.). The book is so good as a whole, and so well-written, that we may ignore the authors' little trips into the field of neuropathology with which it is evident they are not entirely familiar.
Reviews and Notices of Books

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