Reviews and Notices of Books.

The Primitive Mind and Modern Civilisation. By Charles R. Aldrich.
With introductions by Professor B. Malinowski and Dr. C. G. Jung.

The general theme of this thoughtful production, which has evidently owed not a little to Jung’s teaching in analytical psychology, is that in primitive epochs, and even yet among primitive peoples, the members of any social group co-operate instinctively by means of an unconscious ‘biomorality’ (defined as something more than altruism, a mutual helpfulness); a second stage is reached, one of ‘savagery,’ in which egotistic or individualistic tendencies arise but the exponents thereof are none the less forced to conform to a conventional moral standard or norm; when the third stage, of full individuation, is attained, the persons concerned (though not as yet, we are told, any total society) co-operate with fellow-members of their group consciously for the common good—no longer unconsciously or instinctively—and consciously restrain their egotistic desires in so doing.

The author believes that among certain civilised communities evidence that this third stage has been reached by some is forthcoming; we are assured that ‘some of the old, conventional morality is already in the dust-bin, and more will probably follow’; that now ‘there is very little danger of disrupting the unity of any society by allowing grown-ups to form any sexual relationships they may desire’; that ‘among . . . conventionally moral citizens there are many chaste women whose lives are made miserable by neurosis.’ What is not clear, however, is to what extent these several affirmations are based on objective facts or are merely assumptions symptomatic of the post-war times in which we live. Whether ‘conventional’ moral sanctions have gone, or are going, by the board can in any case apply solely to a limited section of present-day society, and it is well to recall the complete failure of various historical experiments in this respect; one may with equal propriety affirm that in the majority of instances such sanctions still apply. Again, whether in the postulated third stage conscious restraint of personal desires for the sake of others is to become a practical reality, or remain merely a utopian theory, must at present be purely speculative. We should have liked the author to indicate whether in his view advance towards this goal would really constitute progress.

The problems of genius are of perennial interest to the human species. Professor Kretschmer strikes out on a fresh if not precisely novel line of approach to their study by basing his researches on laws—or at least strong probabilities—relating physique to character, and by his careful adjudication, as a professing psychiatrist, on the vexed question of the bearing of insanity on genius, and vice versa. One of his more interesting conclusions is to the effect that while a psychopathic disposition in itself cannot be directly linked to the possession of high talent, genius nevertheless is most apt to spring from a family stock which is beginning to show symptoms of degeneration. Genius is compounded of talent and 'daemon'; and this 'daemon' or 'inner voice' derives from a psychopathic element. We believe the author is fundamentally correct in his statement that those who have had chances of observing early and acute stages of certain psychoses with an understanding mind must sometimes have been astonished at 'the inconceivable power, richness and cosmic breadth of the experiences' these individuals occasionally describe, however commonplace their minds: and that 'ecstatic' conditions of this nature show a considerable similarity to the 'inspirations' of genius. Too often is the general discussion of the problem vitiated by the axiomatic assumption, on the part of the normal mind, of superiority over that of the mentally deranged.

The translator points out in his preface how in some ways the essay is coloured by the German outlook, so to speak, of its writer. For example, the latter rules out all women as by a stroke, denying them the possession of genius—the woman genius 'being at heart a man'—and seemingly attaches greater meaning to the genius of the soldier or the creative artist than to that of other human types, which indeed are here to a large extent ignored. When Professor Kretschmer thinks of the few men for whom name and epoch are synonymous there come into his mind 'Cæsar, Luther, Napoleon, Frederick the Great, and Bismarck'—of whom four are militarists and three Germans. What Frederick the Great was going to do in that galley is a question not easy to answer. However, we are grateful for a deeply interesting and illuminating survey of the problem in its diverse aspects.


This fine monograph, beautifully printed and illustrated, embodies a long series of physiological researches on muscle tonus, on muscular reactions in standing and maintaining equilibrium, and on the behaviour of these in the
case of animals deprived of their cerebellum. Dr. Rademaker examines at
great length, and in ingenious ways, the phenomenon of 'Stütztonus,' by
which is to be understood 'support tonus'; its degree is estimated as the
maximum of accommodation to the heaviest weight the animal can carry
without its paws bending under it. He shows that after extirpation of the
cerebellum this variety of tonus at first diminishes, then recovers, till eventually
the animal (dog) can actually sustain a greater load, especially when on its
back, than the normal dog. When the cerebrum is removed similar reduction
in strength of support tonus takes place, yet after 24 hours the latter suffices
to bear the weight of the animal's body. The dorsal attitude (animal on its back)
exercises an inhibitory influence on support tonus, affecting it materially in
the case of the intact animal, little in the case of the animal deprived of its
cerebellum, and not at all in the decerebrate preparation. This form of
tonus, further, can be modified by the action of labyrinth reflexes, by
inclination and turning of the head, by change in position of spine and pelvis,
and in other ways. Attention is directed to the occurrence of similar reactions
in man, the 'proprioceptive support reactions' of the limbs; these are in-
creased in cases of cerebellar disease, and this accords with the results of animal
experiments. An example is the 'forearm sign' of Léri; when the closed fist is passively flexed on the forearm the biceps contracts and the elbow flexes
—the reaction is absent in hemiplegia. The author is careful to distinguish
the postural and standing reflexes of the decerebrate animal from the 'support
reactions' of the normal animal.

The studies bearing on the problem of the relation of the cerebellum to
muscle tonus merit careful perusal. He is sceptical of cerebellar 'ataxia,'
of cerebellar 'asthenia'; and altogether so of cerebellar 'atonia.' Dr.
Rademaker's work will repay minute examination and is full of value, actual
or heuristic, for analysis of human material.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Brain Tumours. By Ernest Sachs, M.D.,
professor of clinical neurological surgery, Washington University School
of Medicine, St. Louis. With 224 illustrations, including ten in colours.

To the comparatively small list of didactic compilations embodying modern
advances in nervous surgery and principles of surgical technique related thereto
Professor Ernest Sachs has added a handsome volume dealing with the diag-
nosis and treatment of brain tumours, founded on a wide personal experience
and enriched with information culled from various other sources. Introductory
chapters on anatomy, physiology, and methods of examination (no doubt
excellent for the student but surely otherwise superfluous) are succeeded by a
third, on the surgical pathology of cerebral tumours, which follows in the main
the terminology of Cushing and Bailey and is well illustrated with photographs.
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of microscopic sections. General and localising symptomatology engages due attention, as also differential diagnosis. The concluding chapter, on surgical technique, is particularly detailed. A series of illustrative case-histories appear at intervals throughout. From the viewpoint of practice the book makes its appeal primarily to the surgeon, who will, we feel sure, appreciate its many merits, among which a directness and simplicity of description occupy a prominent position.


More than one abstract of various papers written during the last few years by Professor Moniz and dealing with the technique which he has devised has appeared in the pages of this Journal. By means of injections of a 25 per cent. solution of sodium iodide (which is more opaque than the bones of the skull) into the carotid and recourse immediately thereafter to X-ray photography, it is possible to have outlined clearly on the plate the course of the main, and indeed of many of the smaller, branches of the cerebral arterial tree. After careful study of the normal distribution and appearance of these vessels, it becomes comparatively simple to ascertain in what way, if any, they are modified by the presence of a cerebral tumour and of accompanying alteration in intracranial pressure.

To this new technique for advancement in knowledge of diagnostic procedures concerned with that subject Professor Moniz has devoted himself with rare persistence, and the result is an impressive monograph dealing seriatim with a large number of tumour cases and with the lessons learned by resort to 'arterial encephalography.' Many of the illustrations are highly instructive, especially those which, in unilateral cases, compare the arterial picture on the normal side with that on the affected.

It is of course apparent that the value of the method will be increased if in other hands than those of its originator similar successful demonstrations are obtained. The volume also contains several general chapters dealing with tumour symptomatology and localisation.


In a delightfully readable fashion Dr. Lhermitte has put together the marrow of present-day doctrine in regard to sleep and its problems, clinical, pathological, and biological. We have been assured that the definition of sleep 'is the calvary of biology,' but within the last few years the strides that have been taken
towards the solution of its inner mystery may fairly be regarded as immense. To this desirable attainment different approaches have been sought, and if that of physiology has seemed the most fruitful, neither the contribution of clinical neurology nor of psychology can be overlooked. With easy mastery of his subject Dr. Lhermitte takes the reader over the field of knowledge, and appears equally at home in all its divisions. The convenient size and the graphic and lucid style of the writer combine in the production of a bibelot which should find its way to the pocket not only of the specialist but of all whose interest these problems awaken.


The experimental production in animals of a state of catatonia in all its salient features identical with that of the catatonic psychotic patient must be allowed to offer rich promise of further advances into the mechanism of production of psychotic symptoms. For the purposes of this study the authors have used the alkaloid bulbocapnine obtained from corydalis cava and numerous details are furnished not only of the general fact but also of the close relation which holds between severity of symptoms and dosage of the drug. It thus becomes clear that a clinical syndrome, to all appearance of 'organic' class, is nought else than the expression of dynamic and transient alterations in function attributable to experimental toxicosis. And it is doubtless legitimate to argue, as is here done, that the phenomena of catatonia in man similarly represent a dynamic as opposed to a static condition, whose basis may be assumed to be of a toxic kind.

To all who seek the interpretation of so-called mental symptoms in disturbances of known or unknown neural systems a study of this nature, established on objective experimentation, must prove illuminating. On the other hand, it is equally important not to lose sight of the possibility that derangement of a neural system may be conditioned in one set of circumstances by say a toxic element and in another by excitants of a psychical order. But this at least may be said, that 'psychomotor' accompaniments of the major psychoses lose something of their mysteriousness when they can be reproduced at will in the laboratory animal.


The accepted theory—or at least that which has seemed to consort best with clinical data—of viscero-muscular and viscero-cutaneous reflexes to account
for the superficial pain and muscular rigidity of certain abdominal affections is submitted by Mr. Morley to destructive criticism, and if not demolished, it reels at his onslaught indisputably. Mr. Morley discards in toto the hypothesis of reference from a visceral to a cerebrospinal neural mechanism (does he not go a little too far in affirming that there is no histological evidence for the precise connexion between autonomic and cerebrospinal afferent nerves which the theory assumes? Is not there a neural continuum in regard to the former and anatomical linking so far as concerns the spinal part of the two?), and feels himself justified, from long consideration of the facts of observation, in advancing a counter theory. This is to the effect that deep and superficial tenderness in abdominal cases, together with muscular rigidity of the abdominal wall, has nothing to do with visceral reflexes but is a referred phenomenon from the highly sensitive cerebrospinal nerves of the parietal peritoneum. Splanchnic and somatic mechanisms of abdominal pain he admits 'work marvellously together in many morbid processes' (how so, if not physiologically and therefore anatomically?) but they are aroused by stimuli of different orders, vary in their evolutionary place, and are 'fundamentally separate in origin and function.' Because of this 'profound difference,' the theory of a radiation of pain through the splanchnic to the somatic nerve is 'highly improbable,' and in Mr. Morley's contention not supported by clinical observation.

It is always salutary to have accepted views revised and remodelled, and, it may be, abandoned, when they are shown to accord ill with objective reality. Whether the thesis here engagingly set forth will itself stand testing remains to be seen; the least to say in its favour is, that it demands serious investigation.

Treatment of Epilepsy. By Dr. FRITZ B. TALBOT, clinical professor of pediatrics, Harvard University Medical School. London; Cassell & Co. 1931. Pp. 308. Price 18s. net.

Much has been heard in recent years of ketosis and of the serviceableness of a ketogenic diet in epilepsy of unknown origin. By definition, ketosis is characterised by the presence of acetone, β-oxybutyric and diacetic acids in the blood, in excess; and it can be produced by a variety of conditions, such as infections, fasting, diets of a high fat and low carbohydrate content, cyclical vomiting, diabetes mellitus, etc. For therapeutic purposes in epilepsy fasting and modification of diet in the above-mentioned way have been resorted to with very fair success.

All the fundamentals of the method are to be found in this useful book, which is thoroughly scientific in spirit and sound in practice. The fullest details are supplied for application in given cases; the hazards and intricacies of the regime are not ignored. Disappointing results are examined with patience and the factors leading thereto evaluated. Dietary tables furnish
the reader with information of the most practical kind. In the judgement of Professor Talbot, the ketogenic procedure has been tried now for a sufficiently long time to justify its inclusion among the more recent treatments of a troublesome affection, and if hitherto the best results have been obtained in children it would none the less appear to be of wider applicability.


Dr. Lucien Rouques has written an excellent thesis on the still obscure malady now usually known as dystrophia myotonica, although he employs the older appellation. Nor is it easy to understand why the term 'Steinert's disease' should also be suggested by the author, for he is well aware of adequate descriptions of the condition antedating that of Steinert by a number of years.

From the purely documentary standpoint the monograph is replete with clinical and pathological information; to the eight existing autopsy records the author is able to add a ninth, in considerable detail. However elaborate such clinico-pathological investigations may be, it cannot be said that they lead to the secret of the affection, for the discovery of which other methods must be utilised. Dr. Rouques is of the opinion that the disease should be classed with the general category of dystrophies, represented at one extreme by myotonia congenita and at the other by ordinary myopathy. Discarding any pathogenetic role played by the endocrine glands, he would seek the intimate cause in disorder of the 'general trophic centres,' by which are to be understood 'extrapyramidal formations' and 'intracranial vegetative nuclei.' Of such a view it may perhaps be remarked with truth that, on the whole, it raises fewer difficulties than it dispels.

The appended bibliography is unusually complete.


The aim of the writer of this slender monograph is to ascertain whether it is possible, from consideration of their early clinical syndromes, to determine which cases of general paralysis are likely to benefit by malarial treatment. With this end in view 56 cases have been selected and their condition before and after fever therapy critically compared. Contrary to an opinion expressed by Bostroem, the writer finds that those commencing with depressive and hypomanic symptoms react badly and their prognosis is not good. Best results are obtained from the type of case grouped as 'asthenic,' 'exhausted,' 'stupid,' and from those with somatic manifestations. Attention is called to the circumstance that these have little or nothing to do, psychologically speaking, with the demented variety. The least favourable type is that in which 'organic' syndromes coupled with dementia occupy the clinical foreground.

A study of this kind serves a useful purpose and helps to crystallise knowledge in respect of choice of case for malarial cures.

Dr. Newman has given the English-reading profession an excellent translation of the comprehensive monograph of Professor v. Economo, written in 1929, dealing with epidemic encephalitis. Professor v. Economo was the first neurologist on the continent to recognise the relative novelty of the affection which made its appearance in Austria in 1917 and from the very commencement he has continued to be one of its foremost investigators. Thus the book under review comes from the pen of an authority and can be cordially recommended as constituting an admirable exposé of all that is known in connexion therewith, complete with indices and bibliography.


In these days increasing attention is being paid to the radiology of the nervous system, and no case of brain or cord lesion in which compression is a possible diagnosis can be thought completely examined without resort to X-ray study. Nervous symptomatology stands to gain in precision of meaning when the adjuvants provided by 'electro-radiology' are taken advantage of. The new science and practice of chronaxy have added materially to that precision, and every year more use is being made of X-ray refinements. These several advances are well described in the volume under review, which, in the section devoted to cerebral tumours (for example), gives the student of neurology an excellent idea of the wealth of information to be gained thereby. Although many points receive annotation, it is perhaps a little curious that no figures are reproduced of calcification in meningeal venous angiomata, and only one of calcareous deposition in a growth (for which the abandoned term 'gliosarcoma' is here employed). 'Pineal shift' is referred to but not illustrated. Osteitis fibrosa of the cranium is pictured, but not Paget's disease, which is if anything less rare. Ventriculography and encephalography are adequately discussed.

A large part of the book is devoted to the electrical treatment of a long series of nervous diseases, and radiotherapy here receives commendable notice, consonant with the prominent place it now occupies. On the other hand, sections dealing with the application of radium ('curiethérapie') seem by comparison rather too concise, not to say superficial. Only a few lines are allowed for the radium treatment of intracranial growths—and this we consider a regrettable omission in so modern a treatise.
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In essence Dr. Adler's latest contribution to the subject of neurosis consists of some dozen case-histories of 'problem children' and of a series of comments from his pen on the incidents of each case which in his opinion serve as pointers to the stages in neurosis-formation. Each, further, is amplified by a little question-and-answer discussion conducted when the child involved was brought before him for consideration. For some reason or other this method of presentation, at second hand as it were, tends to diminish the impressiveness of the study, possibly because of difficulty experienced by the reader in reconstructing the atmosphere of the 'conferences.' Yet it would perhaps be troublesome to find any other to prove superior. Dr. Adler's words of advice seem all too brief in a given case, and his belief that 'we have put a new idea into his head' is unsupported by further history of the progress of the patient. After all, such value as these pages hold resides less in the substance than in the manner of the examinations, and the physician occupied with concrete cases of the kind will readily appreciate the kindliness, insight, and firmness manifested by Dr. Adler in his handling of 'difficult children.'


The fourth volume in the series contains a number of articles of clinical interest, three of which are devoted to questions of analysis in general practice, in town and country. Dr. Bircher narrates a case of epilepsy treated by psychoanalytical procedures. Compulsion neuroses are also discussed in two papers. Dr. Stekel himself indulges once more in a brief personal allusion to the relations between Freud and himself, and to the differences in their respective views of analytic treatment. 'Ohne Freud wären Adler, Jung, und ich unmöglich gewesen,' but, as Nietzsche said, 'Man dankt einem Lehrer schlecht, wenn man nicht über ihn hinauswächst.'


A new quarterly devoted to the psychoanalytic methods of Dr. Stekel and those who follow his teaching has appeared. It contains a series of short and readable articles on the technique of psychoanalysis, the dream as the barometer of the analytic situation, analysis of a case of dyspareunia, paraphilia and phimosis, curiosities in analytic practice, and others. The journal promises well and will no doubt appeal to its readers.