Reviews and Notices of Books.


This is a very instructive and well-written book. The author deals seriatim with various theories of character-formation and character analysis at present in vogue, associated with the names of Kretschmer, Jaensch, Haeberlin, Klages, and others. What he calls the 'biologico-medical' theory may perhaps attract the reader's attention most. He disposes of the arguments sometimes advanced against inferring views of normal character-building from consideration of psychopathological types. An informative section deals with the inheritance of character and is based on many published records of a heredo-familial kind. No less interest attaches, however, to Professor Kronfeld's criticism of Freudian characterology. This part of the book is peculiarly interesting. The author points out the significance of the well-recognized fact that Freudian teaching has been lauded on the one hand, and has met with persistent opposition on the other. The reason goes beyond any merely superficial resentment at the stress laid on sexual matters. Freudian dogma exalts the unconscious or subconscious at the expense of the conscious mind, and this runs contrary to the teaching and belief of Western civilization and of Christianity. Psychoanalysis is a destruction of all ideologies; its motto is, 'Acheronta movebo.' The 'divine' in man is the conscious, mind and soul; the heart of Western culture is acceptance of man as a conscious being. On this fundamental difference between the psychoanalytic and other schools the author has a great deal to say, thoughtfully expressed and logically handled. It amounts to a revolutionary upheaval, this insistence of psychoanalysis on the unconscious; for psychoanalysis, science is a narcissistic substitution, an onanistic equivalent; art is a fictional compensation for an inner life that does not satisfy and is soaked in sexuality; religion is an infantile mass-illusion, based from a castration Angst—and so forth.

I should like to see the work appear in an English edition, so cogent the argumentation on these and other features of present-day psychology.

This book is a psychoanalytic study in social anthropology by the parallel method; that is to say, the anthropological data and the psychoanalytic data and surmises are set down side by side, and the former interpreted in the light of the latter. The practice of couvade, the puberty rites of savages and the significance of certain aspects of Jewish ritual are arranged in this way. The work is scholarly and shows the intimate acquaintance with psychoanalytic principles and the psychoanalytic way of thinking that one associates with the author's name. The result is stimulating and suggestive, and gives a singular impression of continuity of feeling between primitive men as revealed in their ceremonials and modern man as shown in his dreams and neurotic symptoms. This impression of continuity of thought is a much more convincing affair than Jung's concept of the racial unconscious, and it is so ingeniously produced that the criticism that the reasoning is circular is well countered before it can be made.


With his accustomed erudition and philosophical insight Professor Bleuler tackles in this monograph the controversial topics of mechanistic and vitalistic interpretations of life. In his opinion the mechanistic view of life is an egregious failure; chemico-physical processes can never bring life into being, and, if they could, the chances that such combinations should be able to keep life going in the absence of some purposive function are practically nil. And if the unthinkable were to happen, and life be established by the accidental concatenation of atoms, the very forces bringing them together would be calculated also to disperse them. Vitalism, in the sense that life is a function constructed ad hoc by some `Etwas' outside the organism, also comes under criticism; the conception is rendered unnecessary by that of mnemismus. The idea of a `cosmic intelligence' is purely `in the air' and can be dismissed as a mere speculation. Professor Bleuler adheres with reasoned enthusiasm to the conception of the mneme, and affirms his belief in the reality of engrams, carried, it is true, by chemico-physical processes; engrams are specific for each variety of organism. They are registered, as it were, in `lifeless colloids.' To identify consciousness with the psyche is an error; the latter must be conceived of as distinct from the former, and those who cannot do this will be `incapable of understanding' biological psychology. It is incorrect to say that mnemismus resolves the psyche into
atoms. The psyche is a function of the brain, and in this fashion Professor Bleuler discards all dualistic theories; differences between the psychical and the physiological are not factual differences apropos the object observed, but differences in the standpoint of the observers. Organismal and psychical 'purposes' are identical. The psyche is a specialization of directing organic functions, itself adjusted on the basis of the physical and on individual experiences. It is the one thing which can be known both subjectively and objectively.

The essay is stimulating and suggestive, but though the views of the author are expressed with conviction they are not particularly convincing.


This essay deals with the perennial problem of genius in a contemplative and original fashion. Without attempting a rigid definition of genius (and how can any be made in respect of a fluctuating conception?) except by one of its aspects—that of great intellectual achievement—Dr. Lange-Eichbaum considers it must be clearly distinguished from exceptional and remarkable talent; and this, in its turn, is taken to be something 'organic, biological, constitutional,' for it is 'markedly hereditary.' Talent is an inborn endowment, a 'gift.' He will not allow that the former is separated from the latter by 'productive thought,' by 'inspiration' and 'intuition,' by something 'fundamentally creative.' His view of genius is that it is 'the consummation of sociological, religious, and psychological factors,' and that sometimes centuries must elapse ere genius can come into its own. Its necessary antecedent is fame.

Whether this way of looking at the question will make a wide appeal may be doubtful. There are no standards of genius, no distinct human types of genius, no single capacity appertaining specifically to genius. If this be admitted, then agreement on what constitutes genius and on the cognate matter of whom we are to class as geniuses will never be attained. On the problem of the relation of genius to insanity the author comes to the conclusion that 'gifted insanity' gains the victory over 'simple healthy talent'; but he hastens to add that this may be because 'the mentally disordered person is more likely than the sane person to become famous.' Such an opinion can scarcely be said to be worth taking seriously, yet it is repeated in another form when the author affirms that the fame of the mentally deranged person leads to elevation to the rank of genius 'more often' than the case of the mentally healthy. As is the case with other books of the kind dealing with the same problem, we are once more astonished at the absence from consideration of geniuses belonging to medicine and the physical sciences.
generally. But since Madame Blavatsky, apparently, is taken to belong to
the class, and Helen Keller, and a crowd of others we need not mention,
perhaps the surprise has a simple explanation. The author is mistaken in
his claim that the late onset of psychosis (arteriosclerotic, syphilitic, etc.) in
certain persons cited in the book is an indication of pre-existing psychopathy.

Maladies du Système Nerveux. By Henri Claude, Professor in the
Faculty of Medicine, Paris, etc. (Library of the Doctorate in Medicine,
edited by Professors Carnot and Rattery.) Two volumes. Paris:

In two fat volumes, of small format, containing together some 1,500
closely printed pages, Professor Claude gives the reader a ‘précis’
of neurology. For all its condensation the work is almost encyclopædic
in its range, up-to-date in knowledge, and written in readable style. The
illustrations (a few of which did duty thirty years ago in another
publication) are unequal, some being mediocre, others good. The
descriptions are uniformly excellent, and the general arrangement of the material
satisfactory. Professor Claude makes numerous textual references to
authorities without specifying the source of these; this, we think, is
regrettable; the names should either be omitted, or accompanied by precise
allusion to the original papers. It would be a comparatively simple matter
to point out defects of omission, and some, as we consider, of commission;
but these in no way detract from the conspicuous ability with which the
author has discharged his difficult task.

Psychologie und Ärzliche Praxis. By Herm. F. Hoffmann, Professor
of Psychiatry and Neurology in the University of Tübingen. Berlin:

Professor Hoffmann’s brief essays on different aspects of psychology in
its relation to medical practice contain a number of familiar truths that are
doubtless worth restating. Some attention is paid to the ever-present
problem of ‘compensation neurosis’; in cases of industrial ‘accident’ the
person concerned always seeks a cause in some external circumstance if he
develops a neurosis, and that cause is always the alleged ‘accident’; his
point of view, therefore, differs in essence from that of the medical man, who
cannot ignore intrinsic factors. Another feature of such cases relates to the
insistence of the sufferer on his ‘rights.’ Many devote their whole attention
to this ‘Rechthabenwollen,’ and become neither more or less than
‘querulants.’ Such a person makes out before his friends and neighbours
that he is ill, and may then be told after medical examination that there
is nothing the matter. To ‘save his face’ he accordingly begins to insist
on his ‘rights’; it is obviously easier and more satisfactory for him to affirm
that he has been unjustly treated than that he himself is in the wrong.

Of many excellent contributions to neurology emanating from the service of Professor Guillain at the Salpêtrière, the latest, that of Dr. Lereboullet on tumours of the fourth ventricle, is undoubtedly one of the very best. It is a model of what such monographs should be. Based on the study of 20 personal cases, and enriched by data drawn from no fewer than 436 observations already published, it covers the field in comprehensive fashion, is completely up to date and modernist in its views, and is well illustrated. Written in clear language, with the material properly arranged and with a long bibliography, it provides the reader with a valuable account of present-day knowledge, clinical and pathological, in respect of the growths concerned. Thus, for example, its author is at pains to describe the usual tumour species found in the fourth ventricle, and at the same time to sketch the clinical symptoms of each, enabling the student to form a good idea of what a given case is likely to prove from the histopathological standpoint when its particular clinical features are examined. In this way medulloblastoma, astrocytoma, ependymoma, hæmangioïma, and others are duly differentiated. But the Thesis embodies also concise descriptions of both general and special ventricular syndromes (e.g., that of the lateral recess), lays stress on the earliest symptoms of the condition, and explains why certain cranial nerve involvement is as a rule less common than might be expected—according to the author, this last feature is due to the fact that the floor of the fourth ventricle is phylogenetically older than its roof and sides, hence presumably more resistant. Cerebellar symptoms generally precede those of lower cranial nerves. The service rendered by ventriculography is recorded, with the proviso that the procedure should be followed immediately by operation. Lumbar puncture, as is known, has its risks. A number of successful operative results are quoted, and some attention paid to further treatment by radiation.


The latest volume in the Proceedings of the American Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease amplifies and supplements a previous volume in the series (1928) dealing with the same subject. It contains about a dozen papers bearing on different aspects of the question and representing a high level of original work. Together with its companion volume it offers the reader a general survey of schizophrenia and provides
him with sources of much detailed information. The pathology of schizophrenia is discussed by Professor Spielmeyer, of Munich, and its treatment by Dr. Hinsie. Favourable results from the employment of sodium amytal in catatonia are reported by Dr. Bleckwenn.

**Sex Hostility in Marriage.** By Th. H. van de Velde, M.D. Translated by Hamilton Marr, M.A. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd. 1931. Pp. 296. Price 17s. 6d.

In a discursive and popular fashion Dr. van de Velde roams over the general subject of marital disagreement based on sexual differences. Its cause may be sought in masculine and feminine contrasts and in aversions arising therefrom; its prevention may be secured by better choice of a partner, from either side. Marriage harmony is difficult of attainment, except by accident, unless consideration is given to mental and physical types, to character, health, social circumstances, and, indeed, a host of other factors. Of the general truth of much that is herein elaborated there can be no doubt; common sense teaches its importance, but, of course, common sense all too seldom is relied on when love is swaying the persons concerned. Some of Dr. van de Velde’s counsels are counsels of perfection, and some of his suggestions are devoid of practical value; they are valid only in a world ruled by logic and uninfluenced by affective impulses. Moreover, not a little of his material is without direct bearing on the problem, however interesting in itself.


This purely clinical study is based on the examination of 49 cases classed as belonging to the category of paranoia querulans, or, rather, as having pathological complaint as their outstanding feature. The patients belonged to various types of psychopathic personality, six of the total being pure fanatics, 19 hyperthymic, 13 ‘kontrastreich,’ four depressed, and three ethically defective. Only nine out of the 49 had failed to come into conflict with the law at one or other time. Special comment is made on the fact that at least 60 per cent. of the querulants belonged to the pyknic or athletic type, asthenic and dysplastic types being in a negligible minority. In regard to heredity endogenous psychoses do not occur in greater number in members of querulant stocks than in the general community, differing essentially therein from the case of schizophrenic and paraphrenic stocks. In conclusion, the author decides that there is no such entity as a querulant psychosis, but only querulants; that is to say, the symptom is common to a number of types and does not constitute one by itself.
The third edition of this excellent textbook contains some 50 more pages  
than its predecessor, the result of incorporating a new chapter on the  
psychiatry of childhood and of additions in other ways. The best proof of  
the value of the work is the comparative rapidity with which new editions  
are being called for; its intrinsic qualities have been remarked on in previous  
reviews in this Journal.

Brain and Personality. By P. Schilder. New York: Nervous and  
The value of the essays contained in this book would in any case be difficult  
to assess; but the task is made much harder by the style in which it is  
presented. The author has attempted as he says to 'bridge the gap between  
the organic and the functional.' He brings forward very interesting  
observations; but the connexions and conclusions are not as clearly thought  
out as even in this difficult borderland they might be. Even some simple  
clinical terms like vertigo are used in a way that suggests an insufficient  
analysis and appreciation of their varying significance. Nevertheless the  
book is full of a surprising number of observations and is very suggestive;  
and necessarily in such a field much must be left to the future to elucidate.

Hirnpathologische Beiträge. Edited by Professor K. Schaffer, Budapest,  
This forms the eleventh volume of reprints of studies from the Clinics and  
Brain Institutes connected with Hungarian universities, and contains a  
number of articles of much value, some of which have already been  
abstracted in the pages of this Journal. One of the more interesting deals  
at length with the pathology of schizophrenia, from the pen of Dr. Bela  
Hachst. It is well documented and beautifully illustrated. According to  
the author, pathological changes affect earliest and most those regions of  
the cortex which appear latest in phylogeny and which, in 'progressive  
cerebration,' are seen to be characteristic of the human brain when contrasted  
with that of the higher mammals. Much attention is paid to the occurrence  
of 'lecithinoid' degeneration, at one time supposed to be pathognomonic  
of amaurotic family idiocy, but found in four of the author's cases of  
schizophrenia. Another interesting article is concerned with the histo-  
pathology of tubers, which is shown not to be a systematized disease. Its  
prime lesion is stated to consist in deposition of syphilitic granulation-tissues  
round radicular nerves, to which all other pathological change is secondary.  
The views of Richter and Nageotte are to some extent supported by the  
writer.

DR. NATHAN's unpretentious little book embodies many useful ideas relating to both diagnosis and treatment, and can be read with profit even by the expert. He has much to say regarding neurasthenia and the futility of an anodyne and some humdrum words of consolation. Recent work has emphasized the connexion between neurasthenic states and alkalosis of blood and urine—a line of research promising well for the future. Among 'malades imaginaires' who have been rehabilitated of late fall to be included those suffering in point of fact from alkalosis (as mentioned), from bladder atony, sympathetic disorders, endocrinic derangements of a 'fruste' character, and coenaesthesiopaths. On the psychopathological side consideration is given to obsessions, phobias, hysteria, and, in particular, hypochondria.


The writer of this brochure endeavours within a small compass to give 'a simple explanation of how modern psychology sets out to solve nervous difficulties and problems.' Here, modern psychology is practically synonymous with psychoanalytic doctrines, and Freudian theories are more or less strictly adhered to. It is not an easy matter to write on a technical subject for those who are uninitiated, and we cannot help feeling that though such a reader would derive some useful insight into the working of the mind from this little book, he would also often be confused. We fail to see that any special virtue exists in the fact that this is written 'by a layman for laymen.' It is claimed that thereby there will be an adequate realization of what should be known, and that definitions will be simple and accurate. This is not always substantiated in these pages. To define the mind as 'the thing with which we think' is regarded as quite sufficiently good for the purpose. After the importance of grasping what hysteria really means has been stressed, we are told that 'the hysterical person is one who is capable of exhibiting loss of memory, or a paralysis for which there is no cause from injury in the body, or bodily pains which are not due to definite organic illness.' Books on this topic which are models of lucidity exist already, addressed to laymen and written by recognized authorities. Nevertheless, this small volume may prove of use to those whose conception of nervous difficulties and problems needs much education.

The authors have been at pains to examine the question of whether insanity has been on the increase since the end of the War (so far as concerns Paris and its environs) and whether, if so, it can be ascribed to factors in activity during the War years. Their statistics are based on official figures and do, in fact, demonstrate diminution during the period of hostilities and increase thereafter on rather a crescendo scale. No new types of mental disease arose out of the War, and no proof of accentuation by the experiences of warfare is forthcoming. The increase thereafter is attributable rather to relaxation of social habits, notably to intemperance, though other and somewhat special factors have also played a rôle. Possibly the most interesting part of the book is its introduction, portraying in graphic fashion the change that has come over Paris as regards modes of dress, means of transport, buildings, disappearance of humble ‘types’ earning a precarious living in ways now impossible, and so on. This is admirably done, with sympathy and with insight.


By definition, intuition is an immediate judgment, expressed before all proof and with a high degree of assuredness. In psychopathology the evolution of the idea of intuition as a possible insane symptom has been of slow growth, though foreshadowed in older literature; of late it has engaged attention in connexion with cases of ‘thought-reading’ as a symptom, notably in erotomaniacs. In greater detail, this abnormal intuition is distinguished by its personal origin, recognized by its subject—‘he knows’—by its sudden and spontaneous presentation to the mind, its irresistibility, by absence of any psychosensory or intellectual antecedent, by its independence of any proofs. It is a form of morbid mental automatism, occurring episodically in a number of different psychopathic states, of which numerous clinical illustrations are here provided.


Dr. Bize has written a monograph on the problem of hydrocephalus in all its aspects, and has covered an extensive field in his personal researches, no fewer than 85 specimens of the condition having been submitted to
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pathological examination. He has also instituted a series of experiments bearing on the pathogenesis of hydrocephalus and is evidently familiar with the wide literature on the subject that has appeared of late. Hydrocephalus is in essence a derivative of derangement in respect of cerebrospinal fluid production and flow, and the first section of the work is devoted to fluid questions. Radiography and ventriculography are utilized in the prosecution of his study. His views on fluid secretion, circulation, and absorption are of interest. There is a long bibliography, which adds to the value of the work.


An excellent little volume which deals simply and clearly with every phase of marriage hygiene. It amply fulfils the purpose for which it was written; but we cannot help wondering why the author thinks ‘it is perhaps regrettable that it has been necessary to deal with the subject of contraceptives.’ Those who need knowledge in this realm can read these pages with interest and profit. One scientific inaccuracy should be pointed out. On p. 21 it is stated that alcohol stimulates sex feeling; but a better explanation is that alcohol narcotizes the higher nervous centres, lessens inhibitions, and may thus release sex desire and bring about overt action. That there is a demand for such a book is proved by the fact that two previous editions have been published.


No atlas of microscopic sections of the brain of a reptile has hitherto appeared, comparable to those surveying the brain of cat, rabbit, and monkey. This beautifully printed and illustrated monograph supplies the want, and will be found of immediate service to those whom the subject interests.


A useful and practical vademecum on physiotherapy deals with all the present-day methods of nervous treatment. Proper attention is devoted to the technique of X-ray and radium procedures for cerebral tumours, of
ultra-violet rays for neuralgia, and so forth. The chief disease-conditions amenable to physiotherapy are classified topically and dealt with seriatim. This little book contains much of interest for any practising neurologist and can be cordially commended to his attention.


This little volume, nicely illustrated by simple and clear anatomical diagrams, contains a précis of nervous anatomy inclusive of both the neuraxis and the sympathetic system. But there is more for the student than merely the bones of his subject, since both the physiology and the pathology of the various anatomical systems, tracts, and centres are sketched briefly yet with considerable accuracy. As an introduction to more elaborate treatises it is certainly likely to prove both useful and stimulating.


Three lectures delivered by Dr. Crookshank are here embodied in book form. The author is an ardent follower of Adler; and the varied factors involved in sexual problems are here dealt with from the point of view of individual psychology and the differences between the Adlerian and Freudian outlook are pointed out. Instead of the psychoanalytic pan-sexualism, individual psychology regards sexual difficulties as just one of the three great problems to be tackled in life, viz., subsistence, society, and sex. Sexual maladjustment is no clinical entity, but a symptom of an individual’s outlook upon and whole attitude to life. The subject is sketched out in a persuasive and attractive form, and the little volume is full of interest.
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