Reviews and Notices of Books


Dr. Ian Suttie has been a contributor to this Journal in days gone by, and his numerous articles on psychopathology have shown him to be possessed of a well-stored and critical mind. These features are seen in the reasoned and animated criticism with which he here assails Freudian theory. He adduces evidence to show that Freudian theory has from the outset been coloured by the temperament of Freud himself; from Freud's own lips Dr. Suttie illustrates a 'specially inexorable repression' that has resulted in a grudge against mothers and a mind-blindness for love. Mother attachments of the individual are, for Freud, 'lost in a past dim and shadowy,' and the Mother-Cults of antiquity are for him a repellant and insoluble mystery. In temperate language and with incisive argument Dr. Suttie proceeds to exemplify this bias on the part of the founder of the theory—a bias of which others have been aware and which, unfortunately, has reproduced itself in not a few of his disciples. It has found perhaps its crudest expression in such a statement as 'Every mother is her child's first seductress'—an opinion so monstrous as to prove of itself that its originator is incapable of understanding what maternal love means. It is good indeed that someone has been found who is so well equipped as Dr. Suttie to cross swords with the exponents of ill-considered views of the kind.

But there is much more than destructive criticism of Freudian theory in this finely written work, in which the meaning, psychology, function and expression of love are constructively discussed with scientific insight and a large measure of sound common sense. Love is, properly, separated and distinguished from appetite and desire, and cultural interest is shown to be something very different from substitute sex gratification.


The general tenor of Dr. Ewen Cameron's argument is that psychiatry has been loaded with rubble from the past more than any other department of science, that the era of mere observation is passing, that only experimental and quantitative psychiatry is calculated to interpret human behaviour aright and ensure ultimate victory over mental disease. Lack of an 'experimental animal' has been and continues to be a great drawback of the experimental
method as applied to human psychiatry, so that observational methods must continue awhile, but, using them, we must combat with rigour any development of 'projectionism.' The author then proceeds to describe and discuss intelligence tests, introversion and extraversion, word association tests, heredity, conditioned reflexes, and sundry other topics concerned with the objective investigation of the body tissues in mental disease. The chapter on pathology is less satisfactory, for while he says well that 'the focus of the main attack will continue to be the thing that lives and moves rather than the footprints which it leaves behind' he also seems to hold that biochemistry and physiology have benefited 'at the expense of pathology.' The truth surely is, that no method of approach should be ignored and that pathology has its contribution to make just as much as any of the others.


This closely printed volume embodies a survey of the literature on psychosomatic relationships of the years 1910 to 1933. We do not know whether to admire more the ability with which the bulky material is handled or the skill with which it has been gleaned. An appendix contains some 2,250 bibliographical references, and an index of authors' names covers over 20 double-columned pages. No digest of the huge collection of data is attempted, but at the same time each division or subdivision is briefly discussed as the matter runs on, and there are various introductory paragraphs dealing with earlier contributions to a particular topic than those of the period mentioned above. It is not unfair to say that, on the whole, the standpoint of the author himself leans to a psychogenic interpretation of various phenomena with which, for example, the 'organic neurologist' may be concerned; he speaks of studies which 'represent a regression [sic] to the point of view of localization' so long as they attempt to replace 'our actual knowledge of dynamic psychopathology' by 'physiological or brain-anatomical assumptions.' Many will consider that the shoe is precisely on the other foot, and that psychopathological 'assumptions' are offered freely in place of 'actual anatomical and physiological knowledge' of the brain.

**Destiny and Disease in Mental Disorders.** By C. Macfie Campbell, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School. London: Chapman and Hall. 1935. Pp. 207. Price 10s. 6d. net.

The well-known Medical Director of the Boston Psychopathic Hospital has in this engagingly written volume dipped into his casebook and given us a series of documents of troubled lives, whose outstanding interest lies in the fact that, as he says, they reveal the working of the deeper forces within man which in health are concealed. They show human personality
'grappling with the special difficulties of its individual destiny.' That Professor Macfie Campbell should thus underline the existence of personality conflicts in the psychoses, of complex forces at work below the surface, does not ipso facto mean he belittles the attainments of other modes of research with the same material; he merely claims in so many words that the guinea-pig as a personality is limited. Many of his reports are dramatic in their setting and emphasize the need for passing beyond academic considerations when the mind diseased is the subject of study. All who read the book will feel indebted to Professor Macfie Campbell for his sympathetic insight into and judicial analysis of the complicated motives and movements that make up the tragicomedy called life.


This book seeks to review the present position of knowledge in relation to psychiatry and to indicate the lines along which research ought to proceed in order to extend that knowledge.

After a review of the problem which is being investigated five prominent American psychiatrists indicate their point of view. Dr. Macfie Campbell deals with that of clinical psychiatry, Dr. Myerson with that of medical psychiatry, Dr. Wechsler with that of neurology, Dr. Adolph Meyer with his own psychobiological standpoint and Dr. Kubie with the standpoint of psychoanalysis. These authorities not only explain their own approach but try to show how future work along their own chosen lines will still further extend knowledge. The general impression from this section confirms what is a fairly general opinion, viz. that psychiatry is in a state of serious confusion and that the whole subject needs coordinating and pulling together; and moreover that the lacune in our knowledge are perhaps more obvious than the positive achievements.

In the final section contributions are made from what are called the supporting sciences. The first eight of these deal chiefly with the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system and again the disproportion between what we know and what we would like to know is all too obvious. The next six deal with topics of general physiology and medicine; finally there are chapters on psychology, sociology, anthropology and education.

Like all books of this kind which are written by many different authors from as many different points of view there is a lack of coherence and unity, but the editor has sought to remedy this by summaries and conclusions at the end of each section and much information is to be obtained from the various articles by the psychiatrist who studies them carefully. If at the end of his study he feels a sinking of the heart that there is so much that we still have to learn if we are to pretend to understand the working of the human mind in health and disease it will not be surprising; but after all what makes neurology and psychiatry such an entrancing study for the inquiring mind.
is that so little is known and that the subject presents many chances for original observation and inference. At least it is clear that generations will have come and gone before all the lines of research which are adumbrated in this book have been followed to a successful conclusion.

This book will serve a useful purpose if those interested in psychiatry and medical psychology can learn from it that their own approach is not the only one and that scientists of all varieties are interested in the problem of the working of the mind and are slowly—perhaps very slowly, but we hope surely, converging towards the light. Let everyone acknowledge that all these approaches are useful and by no means mutually exclusive and perhaps the pace of advance will be accelerated.


This statistical study is based on an enormous number of investigations carried out at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Genealogie und Demographie in Munich; some 50,000 data concerning some 20,000 individuals were collected and analysed. Among the general conclusions the following may be specified.

Manic-depressives show reduced frequency of marriage and increased mortality-rate after their illness has begun, as compared with those of the rest of the population; but these factors affect the dissemination of the disease little, for the age at which symptoms begin is late rather than early. Schizophrenes are a diminishing quantity as contrasted with the rise in general population; this depends on their low marriage-rate and relatively early age for symptoms to begin; their highish mortality-rate matters less. Epileptics increase in relative number just as little as schizophrenes, in part at least because of the early appearance of symptoms and the low marriage-rate. Among other topics discussed at some length is the bearing of compulsory sterilization on the spread of psychoses; the statement is made that it will act very slowly indeed, yet reduction of manic-depressives and schizophrenes will take place even more slowly without it.


The most interesting part of Dr. Robert Bourgeois' monograph on what is sometimes termed 'otic hydrocephalus' is the chapter devoted to pathogenesis. Rejecting, or at least adversely criticizing, the theories of collateral oedema and of anaphylaxis, he argues that in typical cases the lesions depend on pure vasomotor disorder. Traumatic cerebral oedema may exist without any fracture of skull or meningeal haemorrhage and is often seen in com-
motional states, after operation for cerebral tumour, etc. As in his cases of hydrocephalus due to ear trouble, the process begins by oversecretion of cerebrospinal fluid, next by the addition of cerebral edema and venous stasis, which depend on a vasomotor reaction. In the event a mechanical factor adds to the complexity of the pathological situation. Venous stasis alone, in his view, is insufficient. The original oversecretion of fluid is caused by vasodilatation of the choroid plexuses. On the clinical side three varieties are distinguished—a diffuse external cortical type; an internal or encysted ventricular type; and a posterior fossa type.

The monograph is complete in its survey of the field and has a good bibliography.


In 1931 we reviewed in this Journal an English version of a smaller book by the same author entitled The Problem of Genius. The present work is the second edition of another study dealing more or less with the same topic but on a larger scale. In discursive fashion he roams over a field of interest to all educated readers, inter alia providing his list of geniuses—not of course intended to be exhaustive. The reviewer confesses his ignorance of many of the names, yet cannot refrain from expressing mild surprise at finding therein those of Marat, Oscar Wilde, Verlaine, Helen Keller, Amenhotep IV, Andersen (Hans Christian), Brougham, Poincaré—to mention one or two. Are celebrities or 'notorieties' also geniuses? Where is the line drawn between talent and genius? Numerous poets, musicians and artists crowd the catalogue, but scientific men of genius are scarcely alluded to, and not one in medicine, so far as we have noticed. Can the author be begging the question? For he alleges that the genius is neither a superman nor the forerunner of a race of more highly endowed and developed men; genius is not the rosy morn of a new day, but rather the setting sun, a melancholy going down. This contention it would be easy to controvert by choosing geniuses who were not, as many of those selected by the author, psychopaths and degenerates.


It is a good thing to have a textbook of child psychiatry, and Dr. Kanner is to be congratulated on the conception and the execution of his task. Various other aspects of children's diseases and ailments have had their exponents, and as regards psychiatry Dr. Kanner is the first to admit that he has had
forerunners in the field. His compendious volume however is planned on an ambitious scale and has an up-to-date outlook which adds to its value. He advocates an approach from the standpoint of psychobiology, and dreads what he calls 'terminological strait-jackets.' Behaviour disorders are not easily formulated in terms of 'disease-entities.' True though this is, thought is none the less apt to become rather 'woolly' when the 'problem' presented by the child is considered to be the 'diagnosis.' 'Reaction-tendencies' or 'reaction-patterns' may be popular words, but whether they aid in the hunt for causation and localization is another matter. The author is led to subdivide his 'diagnoses' by describing 'anergastic,' 'dysergastic' and 'oligergastic' reaction-forms. He asserts that 'there is a sufficiently large group of idiotic and imbecile children in whom neither an abnormal brain condition, nor an abnormally shaped skull, nor an unusual endocrine or metabolic pathology can be found'; this claim we do not accept, nor the further allegation that defective intelligence can exist without anatomical substratum.


This essay on the mental symptoms of hypertensive states is written principally for the psychiatrist, by whom it is likely to be appreciated. After a description of manifold symptoms of a psychopathological kind attributable in the author's opinion to hypertension and ranging from 'blanks' or 'absences' to alteration of personality, an attempt is made to explain their pathogenesis and several alternative theories are discussed. Another division of the book deals with psychoses of the involutorial period and their relation to hyperpiesis.

The general impression left on perusal is perhaps that the author has not altogether established a causal nexus between symptom and blood-vascular state, in the sense that allowance is not always made for the possibility that the two coexist in elderly persons without being integrally associated. That twilight states, poriomania, anxiety, hallucinosis, the Ganser syndrome, amnesia, delirium and so forth are found in patients having hypertension must naturally be accepted, but the latter may be only one factor of several, and that not the most important.


An elaborate, original, and well-planned study of the subject of astereognosis takes the reader farther into problems of neurophysiology and psychology than the title indicates. Dr. Delay properly distinguishes two principal
varieties of astereognosis; the first is due to defect of analysers (in Pavlov's terminology)—that is to say, the person concerned fails to recognize objects by touch because the function of his receptors is impaired; in the second the latter is intact, the error or fault being one of tactile asymboly. For the analyser defect of intensity the term 'ahylognosis' is coined, for defect of extensity the word 'amorphognosis.' When one or other kind of anmesthesia is instrumental in producing astereognosis the localizing value of the latter is virtually nil. When the phenomenon is conditioned by analyser defects themselves associated not with anaesthesia but with perceptive agnosia, i.e. where the defect is central, then the symptom has a cortical origin and possesses localizing value. In the third place, when no analyser malfunction will account for the symptom, it becomes a tactile asymboly and is exclusively cortical as regards the underlying mechanisms.

Many abridged case-reports from the literature and a number of personal cases enhance the value of the work, which demands and will repay careful reading.


The purpose of Dr. Livingston's monograph is to describe those morbid conditions that have been shown to benefit by resort to visceral nerve surgery. Concise introductory chapters deal with the anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology of the autonomic system, and are succeeded by one on visceral pain and another on the regulation of bloodvessel function. The main thesis of the book is then reached, viz. the neurosurgical treatment of such conditions as Raynaud's disease, thromboangeitis obliterans, angina pectoris, pelvic disorders, and chronic arthritis. The rest of the volume is devoted mainly to surgical technique.

There are 46 figures in the text, which is clearly written and illustrated by a series of case-reports with discussions thereon.


In his thesis for the Doctorat en Médecine the author describes a rather special variety of acute flaccid paraplegia associated with malignant disease of the vertebral column; at a time when all signs of carcinoma are latent, pains along the spine or transient heaviness of a limb are followed rather quickly by a flaccid motor and sensory paraplegia, transient increase of deep reflexes and perhaps a Babinski plantar response; soon all reflexes are abolished and the plantar becomes flexor again. Of rapid evolution, and generally fatal, the syndrome cannot be due to compression, seeing that it
may develop although no growth has entered the spinal canal. The lesion is believed to be of toxic origin.


The excellence of Professor Leblanc’s guidebook, as it may be termed, to the physiological anatomy of the nervous system resides in the simplicity of its arrangement and the clarity of its diagrams (not numbered, but scattered richly through the book). Synoptic tables provide additional reviews of the origin and endings of physiological systems from the periphery to the centre. The reader may look up any nerve-tract in cord or brain and find a precise and succinct summary of its constituents, its source, and its termination. The book fulfils its purpose admirably and can be recommended to anatomist and clinician alike.


Four years have elapsed since the third edition of this popular textbook appeared and was given favourable review in the Journal. The text of the present issue has been revised and improved. In its class the book can once more be cordially praised as providing student and practitioner with a sound corpus doctrinae in psychiatry by two writers of experience and ability. The fact that a fourth edition has been reached since the first publication in 1927 shows how highly the usefulness of the work has been regarded by those for whom it is intended.


In his little volume of collected papers from the immense number he has contributed to medical literature Dr. Parkes Weber deals with several topics of interest to the student of the nervous system. That on endocrine tumours is perhaps one of the most valuable for its exact mise-au-point of present knowledge, and it has a large number of bibliographical references by way of appendix. Others deal with paroxysmal salivation, hemiatrophy and hypertrophy, Buerger’s disease (of which Dr. Parkes Weber gave a description antedating that of Buerger himself), and with certain aspects of dreams. Anyone glancing through these readable pages will find something instructive on nearly every one, and will once more appreciate the remarkable erudition and wide-ranging mental activity of their distinguished author.
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