REVIEWS

prejudice we may have in the matter, the accumulation of clinical data is of inestimable value.

It is the fashion to depreciate Herbert Spencer; but the time may yet come when his words as to differentiation and specialization, even in the matter of the cerebral cortex, will be gratefully recalled. Whether, as the author remarks, it is yet possible to prove that “the purely intellectual functions . . . are confined to the frontal, or rather the prefrontal, region of the cortex”, is a point that will probably be argued for years to come.

The contents of the second volume are more theoretical than those of the first. Yet here, too, is the record of a wealth of clinical material, and the theorizing is not, therefore, to be dismissed hastily. We live amidst a welter of words as to the ‘unconscious’; and thus it is necessary to go warily when speculating about such matters. It is not all quite so clear and self-evident as some dogmatic teachers would have us believe. But Dr. Hollander, without dogmatism, has carefully endeavoured to work out the hidden springs of character, those elementary subconscious impulses which were in existence long before the efflorescence we call consciousness.

It would be easy enough, perhaps, to cavil at what is omitted and at the inconclusiveness of the ‘search’. As to the first, one is more inclined to wonder at the extraordinary accumulation of material by the author in his encyclopædic work; and as to the second it is, as he admits, inherent in the nature of the subject—at least in so far as our limited knowledge allows us to see at the present time.

It is to be regretted it has been found necessary to use so small a type; but this has been entailed doubtless by the lamentably high cost of producing books in these days. There should have been three volumes of a lordly type as a fitting monument to the energy expended! However, the type is clear; and the value of the book is greatly added to by the excellent indices—of names and of subjects.

HUBERT J. NORMAN.


In this work, which is described as being an introduction to the study of nervous diseases, the authors present a complete epitome of the embryology, anatomy, and physiology of the nervous system, together with chapters at the end of each division illustrating its application to clinical problems of neurology.

Thus, for instance, the pons Varolii is discussed in a series of three chapters, the first dealing with its significance, anatomy, and embryology; the second with its internal structure and histology; the last...
describing its functions and principal syndromes. The cerebrum, mid-brain, cerebellum, and spinal cord are dealt with on similar lines. The book is profusely illustrated, and for this purpose not only has judicious selection been made from other works, but the authors have included numerous photographic reproductions of preparations made in their own laboratories. Of these latter the Pal-stained serial sections of the brain-stem are particularly good, and the plan of appending to each section its serial number deserves commendation.

In those parts of the book which are concerned with neuro-physiology one is somewhat surprised to find incorporated as fact such hypotheses as those of Ramsay Hunt as to the functions of the globus pallidus, while subjects of such general clinical importance as decerebrate rigidity, muscle tonus, and the significance of the extensor plantar reflex are neglected. To this last phenomenon the reviewer has been unable to find any reference in the book. It is not mentioned under syndromes due to lesions of the internal capsule, nor is it to be discovered as the result of search in the index under 'reflexes'. Only on p. 816 the 'toe-extension sign of Babinski' is described as an abnormal associated act occurring when the patient is in a recumbent position and flexes the leg and thigh sharply. The omission of an account of the universally accepted sign of Babinski appears curious in a work which deals so widely with clinical phenomena, and in which prominence is given to many functional tests of less widely recognized value.

On the whole, however, the chapters on the various anatomical syndromes are well illustrated by condensed clinical case reports and pathological sections.

On the anatomical side this book as a work of reference fills a gap in English neurological literature. The chapters upon function are less even, and will require revision in later editions.

C. P. S.


The importance and value of this little book are out of all proportion to its size. Within the limits of about 300 pages it summarizes the facts and results of a truly colossal scientific enterprise, viz., the measurement of the intelligence of a large proportion of the American Army during the years 1917 and 1918. Various committees appointed by the American Psychological Association, and the Committee for Psychology of the National Research Council, made a combined attack on the problem in the early months of 1917, and later in the year a Division of Psychology was organized within the Medical Department of the army "for the administration of mental tests to enlisted men and commissioned officers" in accordance with the plans that these committees had drawn up. The objects of the mental testing were threefold: (1) To eliminate the mentally incompetent; (2) To classify men according to their mental ability; and