
The five years which have elapsed since the appearance of the last edition of Nonne's well-known book on syphilis of the nervous system have added considerably to our knowledge of this subject, and also raised new problems, many of which still remain unsolved. It is the consideration of these that are the chief cause of the increase in size of the present volume, but it must be admitted that the value of the book has grown with its bulk.

Among the new features, mention may be made of the interesting pages in which the question of 'syphilis à virus nerveux' is discussed in the light of the most recent investigations; that is, whether a special 'neurotropic' variety of the spirochète exists which affects predominantly the nervous system, in contrast to the ordinary 'dermotropic' variety which involves, by preference, the skin and other tissues. The author arrays a large amount of evidence both in favour of and against this hypothesis, but concludes that this matter cannot be yet regarded as settled, though there is much clinical and pathological evidence in favour of it. A considerable amount of space is also devoted to the inheritance of syphilis, particularly to the occurrence of syphilitic lesions in the nervous system in the third generation; he believes that this is probably much more common than is generally supposed. In another chapter the value and significance of the most modern serological and other tests for syphilis, and particularly their application to the cerebrospinal fluid, are discussed fully.

But perhaps the most instructive chapter is that devoted to the treatment of nervous syphilis. When twelve years ago Ehrlich introduced salvarsan, the early enthusiasm aroused by the almost marvellous effects that it produced on certain syphilitic lesions threatened displacement of older remedies, or to discount their value as compared with that of the newly discovered drug. Nonne's critical review of the results obtained by himself and others during the last twelve years is the more important when his early advocacy for salvarsan is remembered. His judgement is that mercury, when properly administered, is the surest and the safest means, not only of removing the symptoms, but of treating the disease. Salvarsan, in his experience, has no advantages over mercury, though he admits it is often a useful ally. He also brings forward a series of important facts which tend to show that this is so in the treatment, not merely of nervous syphilis, but of the primary and secondary stages of the disease too. His own statistics reveal an enormous preponderance of nervous lesions in the early years after infection in patients treated by salvarsan, in contrast to the number which occur at this period in the untreated and those to
whom mercury was administered. The earlier development of tabes and general paralysis after the treatment of syphilis by salvarsan, to which others too have drawn attention, is also noted by the author, though he admits there has not yet been sufficient time to enable us to acquire demonstrative statistics.

Tabes dorsalis and general paralysis are not dealt with in detail, since the author still holds that neither can be regarded as an ordinary syphilitic affection of the nervous system; he maintains they are special diseases characterized by clinical and pathological features not common to nervous syphilis in the ordinary sense of the term.

This volume is certainly the most complete clinical account of the subject with which it deals, and is consequently an extremely valuable book of reference to the general physician as well as to the neurologist. Unfortunately the poor paper on which it is printed has not allowed a satisfactory reproduction of the otherwise excellent illustrations.

GORDON M. HOLMES.


Behaviour psychology has undergone a rapid development in America, where it is the direct outgrowth of much productive work on animal behaviour. Professor Watson is one of the leading exponents of the new school, and this is the first elementary text-book written from the strictly behaviourist standpoint. The aim of the behaviourist is to bring psychology into line with other sciences and to approach it according to the universal methods of science. Thus mental phenomena, the usual subject matter of the psychologist, are in this volume excluded from consideration. They may exist, but they are not regarded as amenable to scientific treatment, presumably on the ground that they cannot be directly observed except by their subject. This method of study, which would seem to exclude introspection as a source of knowledge, naturally involves a special terminology; Professor Watson, in order to avoid words with subjective implications, therefore confines himself to the description of behaviour in terms of movement responses. There is no discussion of consciousness and no reference to such terms as sensation, perception, will, attention, and the like.

The opening chapter is concerned with the definition and scope of psychology, and with its relation to physics, neurology, physiology, and medicine. Behaviourism is exclusively concerned with the organism in action, with the response of the individual to his environment, and its aims are to "predict human activity with reasonable certainty", and to formulate "laws and principles whereby man's actions can be controlled by organized society". The various types of possible response are classified under four main headings: (1) Explicit habit responses: tennis playing, talking, building houses; (2) Implicit habit responses: thinking (here
Syphilis und Nervensystem

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