constantly found in diabetes, and frequently in other nervous disorders associated with glycosuria. Rats when fed on this organism developed glycosuria, and some died in diabetic coma. The author was not, however, able to cure the disease by therapeutic immunization against the streptothrix. This he explains on the supposition that a centre in the brain which governs sugar metabolism has already been damaged when the disease is sufficiently advanced to be recognized.

Many other forms of disease are also specified with regard to which the author’s ideas are more in consonance with those of the majority of the profession. His claims in the territory of nervous diseases, however, appear to need more substantial proof before they are generally accepted. We should like to know, for instance, what results have been obtained by the experimental injection of the toxins of his ‘neurotoxic’ strains of bacteria. The evidence that these strains are ‘neurotoxic’ appears at present to be purely clinical, and there is at least a possibility that they produce their effects on the nervous system by some less direct mechanism. Thus it may be true that many forms of nervous and mental disease are due to alterations in the functions of the ductless glands, and certain of the latter appear to be influenced by enterogenous toxemia. This, however, does not appear to be quite the same thesis as that propounded by Dr. Ford Robertson, to whom the direct neurotoxic action of the bacteria appears to be the chief factor in determining disease in the nervous system.

J. G. GREENFIELD.


Professor Ransom has written a useful book on the anatomy of the nervous system, which is particularly well illustrated and in which morphological details are clearly set forth. It is true many of the illustrations are culled from other sources, and not a few are now becoming somewhat hackneyed, but it cannot be said that this detracts from the value of the book. Its general format leaves nothing to be desired.

Though in the introduction the author emphasizes the importance of the dynamic as opposed to the static point of view in the study of the morphology of the nervous system, we are of the opinion, on a perusal of his work, that it is less satisfactory on the physiological than on the anatomical side, and that if clinical data are to be utilized at all, they should be incorporated on a less sketchy scale. Thus, for example, a few lines (p. 295) are devoted to aphasia, but a mere paragraph can serve no useful purpose. Similarly, a brief reference to the Brown-Séquard syndrome (p. 112) shows the impossibility of giving an adequate account of that condition in seven lines.

On the strictly anatomical side the student of the subject will find in the book a sound compendium of knowledge, based on the most recent investigations and embodying not a little hitherto not commonly given in
text-books of anatomy. On the other hand, we have not noticed any mention of the central tegmental tract, and in the descriptions of the nucleus anterius, facial nucleus, and others, some details of the localization within these nuclei might have been given. The fasiculus peduncularis transversus is mentioned in the appendix on neuro-anatomical dissection, but apparently is not described in the text. As a whole, however, we can recommend the volume to the favourable consideration of neurologist and student.


Psychologists will be grateful to Dr. Varendonck for so fearlessly laying bare his personal tendencies, both egoistic and libidinous, in an endeavour to clarify our notions regarding ‘foreconscious thinking’ and its relations to other modes of thought activity.

Dr. Varendonck became interested in psycho-analysis while serving as interpreter with the English during the great war, and he gracefully addresses himself directly to English readers because they are “of all nations those who show the greatest interest in psycho-analysis.” Professor Freud contributes an appreciative introduction, in which, whilst refraining from criticism, he points out that the term ‘freely-wandering’ or ‘phantastic’ thinking is preferable to ‘foreconscious’ which the author has adopted. The first section of the book is devoted to an analysis of the genesis, contents, and termination of chains of ‘foreconscious’ thinking. Everyone thinks foreconsciously, but whilst in the normal subject realistic reflection hinders the overgrowth of autism, in the neurotic affects gain the upper hand and interfere with consciously directed thought. One type of foreconscious thinking proceeds by chains of recollections each associated with its own affect. A second and more important type is that in which the affect belongs to the end-idea and is directed by a wish. Thus frightening situations (e.g., bombardment) arouse no fear if recalled, not for themselves, as it were, but for an ulterior purpose. Recollections of this type are more than mere recollections; they are in part new creations arising in attempts at the solution of some problem. Varendonck reproduces the text of a day-dream in the form of question and answer, thus portraying it more clearly in the light of a problem the solution of which is being attempted by a series of suppositions. The method by which the foreconscious deals with the conditional mode is, by this means, cleverly depicted, and is shown to correspond with that which obtains in nocturnal dream-work.

The second section of the book is synthetical, and deals with the affective aspect of memory, apperception, and ideation. Varendonck considers that in foreconscious thinking the relation between memory and affect is causative. A foreconscious thought is the result of a mental operation by which a memory element recalled by a wish becomes a perception preparatory to or in fulfilling the wish. The discussion on the relation between ‘wish’ and ‘will’ is particularly illuminating. Varendonck shows
that wishes may be described as volitions in the affective stage, or, conversely, that volition is originally an acknowledged wish, which has become conscious and relatively free from affect. The foreconscious wish is an expression of a tendency towards adaptation. If the adaptation is not in accord with our present conventional standards it is repressed, but if the wish accords with our ego-ideal the will re-enforces it. This investigation tends to show that unconscious, foreconscious, and conscious thought processes are but three manifestations of the same fundamental adaptive function.

Although there is nothing definitely original in Varendeoneck's thesis, his trained self-analysis results in a presentation of certain psycho-analytically established mechanisms in a new and stimulating light. So much is this the case that in reading his pages the reviewer often fancied for a moment that new ground was being broken. The work is distinctly a valuable contribution to psycho-analytical literature.

ALFRED CARVER.


This brochure gives a popular exposition of psycho-analytical findings as they may be applied to the elucidation of those milder neurotic disturbances which are met with in everyday life. It is somewhat on the lines of Stekel's popular works, but Gut, particularly in his final chapter, appears to have a religious bias.

In the first chapter Gut shows, with well-chosen examples, that every physical disturbance or defect, whether innate or acquired, has a tendency to produce an alteration in the psyche. He then passes on to consider the disturbances of mental balance which arise in the nervously predisposed, and deals successively with the influence of infantile experiences and disturbances occurring during the course of subsequent development, here tracing the cause and effect of numerous family conflicts. No acknowledgements or scientific references are made, but the subject is clearly though superficially expounded, and good examples are employed.

Gut next considers the effect upon the individual of present-day social conditions, and contrasts these with those obtaining in former ages. Finally, the problem of how to conserve mental health is dealt with. Gut emphasizes the fact that the content of consciousness is only a fraction of our psychic life, and counsels everyone to get in touch with his unconscious tendencies. He points out the danger of repression and of taking refuge from reality in phantasies, and also of allowing fixations in the past to occur and hamper us. This chapter is replete with biblical quotations; but it is doubtful how far such advice as, for example, "Let the dead bury their dead" or "Take no thought for the morrow", is likely to be helpful to the neurotically disposed individual.

As a popular exposition this little book doubtless has its place and should serve a useful educative purpose.

ALFRED CARVER.
Reviews

Alfred Carver

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