American behaviourist school—is indicative of the underlying aim of the author in writing this volume. It is much more than a textbook; it is both a statement and a defence of the psychological position reached by the author after thirty years of strenuous study. It is unfortunate (especially for the beginner) that the psychologist should still be so much preoccupied with disputation, but it must inevitably be so as long as there is no agreement in regard to fundamental assumptions, categories or methods. Professor McDougall describes his book as largely a polemic against the mechanical psychologies which preponderate at the present time and on behalf of purposive psychology. Briefly, he advocates the hormic theory, or the view that all animal and human behaviour is purposive in however vague and lowly a degree, and that purposive action is fundamentally different from mechanical process. He takes a more decisive antideterministic attitude than in his former works, and his views, which are here maintained with much vigour, will, no doubt, provoke considerable discussion.

The author does not consider abnormal psychology in this volume, and he proposes to deal with this subject in another book. Psychopathologists will await with much interest the application of the principles outlined in this volume by Professor McDougall to the problems of abnormal mental life.

H. Devine.


Within these pages we have a medley of discourse about everyday fears, special fears, dreams, Coué, Freud, and the ductless glands. We cannot feel that ‘nervous’ patients would derive any adequate benefit from its perusal though they might glean some useful points. Not a few chapters contain inaccuracies and misleading statements. It is instructive to learn that “in a way, the Freudian psychologist has simply glorified and somewhat mysticized a bit of popular knowledge.” As one would here expect, the endocrine glands are familiarly dealt with as the “glands of courage, fear, health and personality.” Any neurotic sufferer would do well to seek more authoritative literature.

C. S. R.


We suppose every neuropathologist at one time or another evinces discontent with published works on his subject; he never finds exactly what he wants, but has no time to write a textbook for himself. Into some 140 pages Professor Rossi condenses neuropathology of a general sort, the physiopathology of the nervous system, and the pathology of the voluntary muscular system, and while the critical reader will find something to complain of, as
usual, the author none the less deserves congratulation for his accomplishment of a difficult task. For here he seeks to give us the general principles on which neuropathology is based rather than a formal and detailed account of the diseases of the nervous system. If we are to allow ourselves one little criticism, it is that the description of morbid neuroglial processes is too meagre to be of much service, and that the systematized, in contradistinction to the diffuse, lesions of the brain and cord receive less attention than they merit in a work of this kind. A considerable number of excellent coloured illustrations are included, and at the end of each section is a fair bibliography.


This is a useful contribution to the study of Huntington’s chorea, containing as it does a complete neuropathological examination of one case and a remarkable genealogical analysis of some Huntingtonian families; in four of these the condition of 93, 82, 136, and 67 individuals respectively, is recorded. The statistical and neurological interest of these family trees is considerable. Dr. Meerburg is not of those who schematically assign mental symptoms to cortical disease and involuntary movements to disease of the corpus striatum. His view, briefly, is that the corpus striatum cannot readily be divided in function into two separate and possibly opposing parts; considered as a whole, its possible activity is to act as a brake (of a reflex and automatic sort) on voluntary movements. He thinks cortex, cerebellum, and neostriatum each contribute a quota to the activity of the nucleus ruber, by definite anatomical routes, but he feels he cannot specify what the exact nature of the influence of the last of these three is.


It is difficult in a short notice to convey an adequate idea of the wealth of clinical, pathological, and physiological material handled with discrimination in this large monograph. The subject teems with controversial matters, with choses that are far from being jugées, but the author pilots his way through the difficulties in a fair and judicial spirit. The greater part of the volume is devoted to an intensive study of paralysis agitans, which he concludes from the examination of five cases is a senile or presenile degeneration, having its incidence largely on the basal ganglia and on the ‘central vegetative nuclei’ (nucleus periventricularis, tuber cinereum, corpus subthalamium, and the long column of the nucleus pigmentosus deuterencephalieus, which extends from the substantia nigra medullawards). The cerebral cortex and the cerebellum are practically always implicated, if to a considerably less extent.

From a pathogenetic viewpoint, Professor Lewy ascribes the rigidity to lesions of the globus pallidus, but does not deny the likelihood of involvement of the large cells of the neostriatum also, especially in cases with contracture. He has been unable to associate the tremor of the disease with implication of
the small-cell systems of the putamen-caudate. The varieties of 'pulsion' he attributes to lesions of the cerebellum. A connexion between the 'vegetative' alterations mentioned above and any special part of the clinical picture is not made out.

Other large sections of the book are concerned with the chemicophysical basis of muscle tonus, with the synthesis of movement and with its analysis, and with the central representation of the sympathetic nervous system—somewhat of a medley, it may be thought, yet not without bearing on the central topic. Interesting if dubious speculations relate to the association of the extrapyramidal system with instinctive actions and to the development of paralysis agitans as a sequel to ductless gland and liver alterations.

All who are concerned with the study of the manifold problems presented by normal and abnormal movement should familiarise themselves with the contents of Professor Lewy's monograph.

S. A. K. W.


These books are alike in that they claim to embody a dispassionate and unbiased examination of the doctrines of psychoanalysis, and in their whole-hearted condemnation of those doctrines as scientifically unsound.

Dr. McBride's work is the less ambitious of the two in its size and scope. After a preliminary description of the Freudian theories, a chapter on 'The Physical Basis of Mind' sets out the physiological conceptions which the author regards as the only satisfactory foundation for psychology, and the psychoanalytical doctrines are then subjected to criticism mainly from this viewpoint. The whole book is, indeed, rather the expression of a faith in the physiological approach for psychology than a substantial criticism of psychoanalysis. Such psychological concepts as the 'Unconscious' and the 'Dynamic Psyche' are dismissed as absurdities on grounds which are without force unless the principle is accepted that psychological concepts are not permissible in science, a principle which, as Höfling long ago remarked proposes to abolish psychology in order to make it into a science. To the psychologist who is not prepared to agree to this principle, Dr. McBride's attack on the fundamental concepts of psychoanalysis will be neither convincing nor relevant. The weak points of the psychoanalytical position are the scientifically inadequate character of the evidence upon which the various doctrines have been built, the doubtful validity of the method of psychoanalysis as a means of eliciting 'facts,' and the impossibility of eliminating suggestion and other distorting factors in the discovery and reporting of these 'facts.' Some of Dr. McBride's criticisms are directed to these points, but they are not sufficiently detailed or systematic to be very convincing.

Dr. Wohlgemuth's work is disappointing. Its author is a man of acknow-
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S. A. K. W.

*J Neurol Psychopathol* 1924 s1-5: 185-187
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.s1-5.18.185-a

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