**Reviews and Notices of Books.**


No one is better qualified to write a book of this peculiarly informative and critical character than Dr. Abraham Flexner, who has visited officially all the chief schools in the Old World, and is equally conversant with the conditions of the New. Written largely from the viewpoint of internal medicine, it covers the whole field of medicine in the sense that the general tendencies and principles herein discussed are applicable to all departments of medical study and research.

The author sets out clearly the different lines along which medicine progresses; he compares the clinical type, the university type, and the proprietary type of medical school, assessing their respective advantages and disadvantages. His own penchant, undoubtedly, is for the university type, with whole-time professors, and he passes some very shrewd criticisms on the difficulties under which the clinical type, so called, labours. Many of his strictures contain profound truths, as far at least as Great Britain is concerned. For instance, he emphasizes the fact that most medical school teachers among us are medical men in practice; he points out how little of educational or scientific value there is in ordinary consulting practice, and roundly states that this 'double life' impedes rather than aids medical advance. 'The physician, as such, has never been highly esteemed in England; the rank of his patients rather than the scientific value of his work gives him such social consideration as he obtains.' He animadverts on the wretched system whereby many hospital staffs are recruited from those who have been there educated, to the exclusion of the 'best man,' wherever he is to be found.

'There is on the Continent no such thing as a Berlin, a Tübingen, a Leiden or a Stockholm 'man.''

Cogent pleas are offered for the dissemination of the whole-time idea, although Dr. Flexner is candid enough to admit that while it is designed to lighten the burdens and to increase the efficiency of the clinician, 'it will not produce ability and enthusiasm where they do not exist; it will not make the sterile clinician fertile.'

All who have the welfare of British medicine at heart will do well to read and inwardly digest this valuable contribution to a problem which cannot much longer be quietly set on one side.

S. A. K. W.

**Leitfaden für die Untersuchung und Diagnostik der wichtigsten Nervenkrankheiten.** By Professor Dr. Adolf Strümpell, Director of the Medical Clinic at the University of Leipzig. Pp. 151. Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel. 1914. Price M.6.

**Intended** for beginners in neurology, this slender volume contains a succinct précis of the principles of neurological examination and diagnosis along...
general lines, with a sketch, in the latter half of the book, of the main symptomatological features of the more important nervous diseases. The beginner is shown how to examine the cranial nerves, the motor and sensory systems, etc., in a routine fashion; the topical diagnosis of cerebral, cerebellar, and spinal lesions is outlined; and included in the paragraphs on diseases are brief descriptions of multiple neuritis, paraplegia, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, amyotrophy, neurosyphilis, hemiplegia, etc.

The book is a sort of *multum in parvo*, it is true, and embodies useful neurological material in its pages, but it is open to the objection that it caters for a minimum rather than a maximum of neurological knowledge. Within its limits, the information is well schematised and is presented in a handy form.


An unpretentious monograph on spurious pregnancy deserves passing notice. It contains much interesting information, and is illustrated by clinical cases one or two of which present features that are little short of amazing. As the author says in his last sentence, behind them "schlägt ein bis in seine dunkelsten Tiefen aufgewühltes Menschenherz." These "deeps" can only be plumbed by some form of psychological analysis. Not all cases are hysterical by any means; a distinction can be drawn between imaginary pregnancies with none of the usual accompaniments, and others in which the belief in the genuineness of this state leads to the appearance of secondary phenomena that may deceive the superficial observer. Some curious data are given in reference to the condition of 'couvade.' There is a useful and compendious bibliography.


This handy volume offers attractions for both clinician and pathologist. It provides diagnostic information for the former and technical data for the latter, and if it does not fall exactly within the category of 'monumental monographs,' it is none the worse for that. After all, in respect of the cerebrospinal fluid there has been, we suspect, more than a little over-elaboration and over-refinement of technique and reactions and tests, chemical and otherwise, and we are gratified to find collected in relatively small compass all the essentials of the subject, expressed in simple language and characterized by lucidity of exposition. Further, the actual worth of the numerous examinations herein described is founded, not on repetition of statements from previous textbooks, but on first-hand experience over a number of years, with the abundant material obtainable at a large neurological hospital. This gives a personal touch to what might in other circumstances have proved less interesting to the clinician than to the pure pathologist. For, if we are not mistaken, the interest in investigation of the cerebrospinal fluid in health and disease
resides less in what totality of reactions, cytological, chemical, biochemical, and so on, can possibly be wrung from it than in the relative usefulness of a selected few, as evaluated by experienced workers.

As far as we are aware, this is the first book on the subject of native English origin, and it does not suffer in any way in comparison with others, French, German and American, that have been earlier in the field. It merits wide appreciation and must prove of eminent serviceableness.


Since this is the first report issued, it may be of interest to note some of its contents. The most distinctive feature of the hospital is that it combines the characters of the neurological and psychiatric clinics of the Continent (treating organic nervous diseases, neuroses and psychoses) with those of hospitals in this and other countries on a universally voluntary basis which exclude cases of definite psychosis. The purposes of the hospital are for research, teaching, co-operation with the general practitioner and others by the provision of an opinion regarding diagnosis and treatment of cases, and treatment. For obvious reasons there has not been great opportunity for pathological research, but a certain amount has been undertaken on metabolism and blood-reactions in the psychoses, on the oculocardiac reflex, and on the emotional response as indicated by the psycho-galvanometer.

A fairly extensive trial has been given to gland therapy, but any conclusions will be premature. Briefly, it is stated: Parathyroid has seemed to lessen the tremors and anxiety symptoms in certain cases of Graves’ disease and anxiety neurosis. Pituitary extract was tried in two cases of Graves’ disease, but with less apparent result than parathyroid. The effects of thyroid were disappointing. The induction of acute hyperthyroidism in a few cases of melancholia produced no definite results. Mixed capsules of thyroid, pituitary and adrenalin were given in one case which was passing from the hyper- to the hypo-thyroid state, and this case certainly improved while under such treatment. Certain cases of depression have improved while taking thyro-ovarian tablets, and amenorrhcea has passed off in some of these. One case of paraphrenia with amenorrhcea improved while taking hormotone, but generally the results were less seemingly favourable than with thyro-ovarian extract. One case of neurasthenia with markedly low blood-pressure improved while on adrenalin. Orchitie extract was tried in a number of cases of dementia precox. One case of katatonic stupor improved shortly after taking large doses of this substance. In a number of cases where pancreatic function has been disturbed some improvement has been noted through the administration of insulin. In general paralysis and tabes no mental or psychical change has been noted through drug treatment. Tryparsamid is now being tried in a number of cases. In the malarial treatment of general paralysis the results are not very conclusive. Any change has been chiefly in the mental state, and such physical signs as tremor and incoordination. In none has there been any alteration of the findings in blood or cerebrospinal fluid except slight diminution in the cell count on a
second puncture, such as is frequent apart from treatment. All forms of psychotherapy have been practised—ordinary suggestion, persuasion and re-education, superficial analysis, exploration under light hypnosis and complete psychoanalysis. The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Mapother, though stating that he does not accept all the alleged facts of any school of psychoanalysis, believes that a great advance has been made in our understanding of cases, and that in some results are achieved by this method which cannot be otherwise obtained. He recognizes, however, that the number of cases in such an institution which can be subjected to psychoanalysis in the full sense must be very limited.

In dealing with results, it is reported that of 452 admissions, 297 patients have been discharged, 13 died, and 142 remained in hospital at the end of January, 1924. Of the cases discharged, in just under one-sixth this was against advice; of 49 such discharges, two-thirds occurred within the first month. Of these 49 cases, 21 (43 per cent.) were improved; 28 (57 per cent.) not improved. Cases of mania were those most liable to leave in this way; apart from these, few cases of good prognosis did so. Of cases discharged with approval, 86 (85 per cent.) were recovered, 87 (83 per cent.) improved, and 75 (70 per cent.) not improved. Of course, as stated, these statistics without reference to diagnosis are of relatively little value, and all comparison of these results with those of mental hospitals is to be deprecated. Most of the cases grouped as dementia praecox indicated the difficulty of prognosis in the initial stages of this condition, the diagnosis having been reluctantly reached after observation in cases which at first seemed of another and more hopeful type. On the whole the cases of neuroses were hopeful, but this was by no means universal. The cases of hysteria now sent to the Maudsley hospital are usually of a far more difficult type than those seen during the war, and have already been long treated without success. Several of these points have to be remembered in considering the following table showing the results in cases of psychosis at this hospital which might otherwise be considered readily comparable with those of mental hospitals, and so bearing on possible legislation.

**Results in Cases of Psychosis.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discharged against advice:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not improved</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discharged with approval:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recovered</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not improved</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Died</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still in hospital</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                    | 272 |

No more is claimed for this table than that it indicates that a considerable number of such cases as are customarily sent to county mental hospitals
could be treated under voluntary conditions, at least, until it is determined that the psychosis is likely to be permanent.

The points we have noted are those of main interest in a long report.


This ambitious and painstaking work is a development of views which germinated during the period of the author’s association with the late August Hoch, and which have been partially expressed in the latter’s Benign Stupors and other writings. Although it endeavours to deal to some extent with the whole field of emotion, the book is essentially a study of manie-depressive insanity, and the more general conclusions concerning emotion appear rather as an appendage to this study.

After a review of various theories of emotion, in which he takes strong exception to the widely accepted views of McDougall, the author formulates a tentative theory of his own, the substance of which is that emotion results from the arousal of unconscious mental processes which, although prevented from reaching consciousness by repression, become co-conscious and manifest themselves objectively as emotional expression and subjectively as affect. He then considers in detail the evidence provided by a study of the various types of manic-depressive insanity, together with material furnished by dreams and other normal and morbid conditions, and finds therein confirmation and support for his theory.

Although this may be said to represent a scanty description of the main thread of the book, it must be understood that the actual field covered is very wide. The case histories are numerous and full, and doubly valuable because they range over a series of years which permits a perspective view of their course and outcome. In addition to the utilization of this material in the psychological investigation of the morbid processes Dr. MacCurdy has formulated therefrom some interesting conclusions with regard to prognosis which, if they are confirmed by subsequent investigation, will be of the greatest practical value.

The book is written in a manner which makes difficult reading, and the central ideas are not easily disentangled from their background. Moreover, many of the views expressed are of a decidedly speculative character, and conclusions are built upon premises which seem too slender to support them. Nevertheless the work contains a mass of material worthy of study and constitutes an important contribution to the library of psychopathology.