The author assigns the kinæsthetic disorders to concomitant implication of the anterior limb of the internal capsule. As for the neck and trunk curving, he regards it as purely of caudate origin, or, possibly, due to involvement of the 'basal bundle' of Edinger, and thinks it may be compared with the attitude of the neck and trunk in decerebrate rigidity. The 'circus' movements are perhaps connected with thalamo-caudate fibres and so with the termination of the superior cerebellar peduncle in the thalamus.

While these experimental researches are a welcome addition to the somewhat scanty literature on the subject, it will readily be seen that they are open to some criticism, both technical and interpretative.

S. A. K. W.


Those who are not psychoanalytically inclined will doubtless be astonished to note that its principles can in any way be applied to such an obvious organic psychosis. Nevertheless, these authors give interesting and illuminating reasons for seeing evidence of psychological factors in general paresis. This will not, however, be surprising to those who view any psychosis as a reaction of an individual whose whole personality, bodily and mentally, is reacting to inward or outward stress. Previous attempts have been made to explain the paretic delusions of grandeur on a basis of physiological and morphological change, but they have been unsatisfactory and unconvincing. The luetic infection is here regarded as a trauma to the ego and it is shown how similar mechanisms, such as are met with in traumatic neuroses, come into play. It is largely a question of an upsetting of the narcissistic libido, the brain representing the central organ of the ego functions. Within these pages it is demonstrated how the initial neurasthenic symptoms of general paresis, the hypochondria, the depression, the euphoria, exalted delusions, etc., are all psychologically determined. Though most of this small volume can only be adequately understood by those who are versed in the current theories of psychoanalysis, there is much stimulating thought therein for any psychiatric reader. It must be taken as an illustration of a distinct advance in our conception of organic mental disorders.

C. S. R.


Any contribution from these leading exponents of psychoanalysis must command respect and attention, and within the small compass of this volume there is much of interest and instruction to practising analysts, for whom it is primarily intended. During the last thirty years the theory of psychoanalysis has expanded far beyond its original bounds and it is not difficult to get lost amongst its intricacies unless certain central principles are kept in
Psychoanalysis and the Psychic Disorder of General Paresis

C. S. R.

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