REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS

to the functioning of cells in the grey matter of the cerebrum, and that, physiologically speaking, specifically different functions are always fulfilled by specifically different cells; and he concludes that each of the three “specifically distinct elementary psychical functions” is “fulfilled by its particular types of cells, which are grouped each within its special organ” in the organ-complex of the brain. It is entirely unphysiological to suppose that the same cell should have two different elementary functions, such as feeling and intellectual activity, and there is no reason to believe, on account of its special attributes, that the brain in this respect occupies a special position among all living organisms.

With Dr. Thalbitzer’s views on the actual localisation of the ‘feeling centre,’ for example, we confess we are not in agreement, nor do we think his contentions for the association of the frontal region of the brain with ‘thought proper’ impressive; but of the soundness of his main argument we think there is no question. A book of this kind serves as a useful corrective and reminder when a possible localisation of psychic elements is unthinking negatived by those who are not familiar with the evidence furnished by nervous and mental disease.

S. A. K. W.


This little work is one of the ‘New Psychology’ handbooks and presents the subject in a popular form. The historical development of the concept ‘mind’ is discussed, and chapters follow on the brain and nervous system, and on brain processes and mental activity. Treatment is discussed from the point of view of physiological psychology, which really is pure physiology. Later the subjects of psychic energy, telepathy, clairvoyance, sleep, dreams, intuition, hypnosis and subconsciousness are briefly dealt with. In the last chapter — “Present position of research” — it is well pointed out that the question of ‘brain and mind’ has been obviously regarded from too limited a standpoint and that it is possible to assume that every cell of the body may possess a ‘mind’ of its own. Much useful information has been condensed into these pages and the author deals with a difficult subject in such a way that the publication will amply fulfill its purpose.

C. S. R.

Nervous and Mental Disorders from Birth through Adolescence.


This handsome and eminently useful textbook on the nervous and mental diseases of children owes its origin, in a sense, to the well-known volume on
The Brain and the Mind

C. S. R.

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