REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS

the same subject written more than twenty years ago by Dr. Bernard Sachs. It is, however, a new book in a real sense, for the subject material has been reclassed, each chapter has been rewritten, and many new ones have been added. As a whole, it embodies the conclusions of the senior author, derived from over forty years of neurological practice.

Introductory chapters on neural structure and function and on methods of examination are followed by a complete compendium of organic nervous disease as met with in infants and children, by a section on endocrine disorders, and by descriptions of the neuroses and psychoneuroses, the insanities, idiocy and imbecility, of the same age periods. One particularly interesting chapter, on the normal child and normal youth, deserves wide attention, containing as it does a reasoned criticism of Freudian doctrines and an emphatic protest against the indiscriminate application of illconsidered psychotherapeutic methods to the problems of youthful minds. This chapter is noteworthy for its healthy, sane, commonsense insight into the heart of youth.

With good illustrations and adequate bibliographies the volume should be assured of wide appreciation.

S. A. K. W.

Mental Invalids. By C. C. Easterbrook. (Morison Lectures, Edinburgh, 1925.) Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1925. Pp. 86. Price 5s. net. This small volume comprises discussions on the body-mind, the clinical examination of mental invalids, the causation of mental diseases and their prevention, their classification, and some aspects and methods of curative treatment. Most of the contents give us old-fashioned conceptions. Thus monomania, delusion and impulsion psychosis are part of the author’s nomenclature. The relationship between impaired nervous structure and the constitutional psychoses given is not credited by most modern psychiatrists. Evidence is certainly lacking that their pathology lies specifically in disease of the cerebral association areas. We feel, too, prejudiced against a writer who states that one of the methods of psychoanalysis is crystal-gazing. Dr. Easterbrook was one of the first to stress the importance of rest in the open air in the case of an active psychosis. In the chapter on therapy are sketched out more modern ideas, and the importance of voluntary treatment and the linking up of general and mental hospitals is pointed out. Though the literary material is well presented, there is little in it which would lead us to recommend the book as an up-to-date presentation of the subject.

C. S. R.

Mental Diseases (Catechism Series). Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. N.D. Pp. 78. Price 1s. 6d. net. The new part of Messrs. Livingstone’s practical Catechism Series is concerned with diseases usually described as mental; the neuroses and psychoneuroses, with epilepsy, are included, as is drug addiction, and the concluding chapters
deal with mental deficiency, mental hygiene, the legal side of mental disease, and treatment. It is no easy matter to provide the bare outline of psychiatry in a readable and assimilable fashion for examinational and other purposes, but the anonymous compiler of this slender book has certainly succeeded in his task. The classification is modern; the presentment is, naturally enough, dogmatic; the differential diagnoses are sufficiently ingoing to be of value. The student can carry the book in his pocket and at intervals imbibe such elementary psychiatric information as will enable him to face the necessary hurdles on his way to a degree "without tears" and without despair.

Tumours of the Glioma Group: a classification on a histogenetic basis with a correlated study of prognosis. By Percival Bailey, M.D., and Harvey Cushing, M.D. With 108 illustrations. Philadelphia, London and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1926. Pp. 175. Recent advances in the minute histology of normal neural tissues have paved the way for a re-examination and reclassification of the forms taken by these tissues under the influence of diseased conditions. By the aid of relatively new histological technique, in particular, impregnation methods, the authors have undertaken a thorough revision of cerebral tumours of the glioma group, and have correlated their findings with the histology of normal cell-fibre structure. Enumerating no less than 20 normal cell types which can be distinguished from the embryological to the fullgrown stage, and identifying these types in brain tumours, they are led to make the following tumour classification:


The novelty of this list of 'gliomas' will at once impress both the neuropathologist and the clinician, but it is much more than a mere refinement of histology. Professor Cushing has been able, from consideration of the months or years of survival of patients in whose cases incomplete extirpation of one or other of the above types of tumour was effected at operation, to prove that "the tumours whose cells reproduced the structure of the less differentiated cells in the developing central nervous system are more actively growing than are the ones composed of more highly differentiated cells." That is to say, some 'gliomas' are unquestionably more benign than others, and the view that all are hopelessly malignant must be abandoned. The practical bearing of this conclusion is at once obvious, and if the surgeon is enabled to foretell better the nature of the tumour he is called on to deal with the gain to the patient will be substantial.

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