Das Augenzittern als Gehirnstrahlung; ein Atlas der Augenzittern­kurven. By Professor Dr. Johannes Ohm, Bottorp (Westphalia).


Professor Ohm has had wide experience of miners' nystagmus among the coalgetters of Westphalia, and has made many previous contributions to that vexed question. The present volume deals more ambitiously with the whole problem of nystagmus. An amazingly elaborate analysis of the technical features of nystagmus, various ingenious instruments being utilised for the purpose, is followed by a description of the clinical features of the following varieties: miners' nystagmus, spasmus nutans, congenital amblyopic nystagmus, acquired amblyopic nystagmus, so-called railway nystagmus, vestibular nystagmus, nystagmus of central origin (Deiters nystagmus), and hysterical nystagmus. The third section of the volume is taken up with a minute examination of the theoretical side of the subject, the relation of the phenomenon to disorders of the optic and vestibular mechanisms being discussed in a painstaking way. At the end an eight-page bibliography is furnished.

It is a little difficult to summarise the author's views and conclusions, derived from study of an immense amount of clinical material, among which the reader is possibly a little apt to lose his way. Briefly, Professor Ohm holds that miners' nystagmus is an oscillatory phenomenon which is caused by interference with the frequency and strength of the excitations normally passing from the optic centres in the brain to the eye muscles; it is a disorder of central innervation. To it the spasmus nutans of children is closely allied. Vestibular nystagmus is a reflex reaction whose arc does not extend higher than Deiters' nucleus; optic nystagmus is a reflex phenomenon the arc of which includes the cortex. It is not easy, further, to follow the author in his comparisons of this physiological disturbance with the tone-variations of music and with the phenomena of wireless. When he declares that as the sun's energy radiates from coal so does a stream of living substance flow from certain cerebral ganglia to exteriorise itself in the movements of nystagmus we feel the language of simile is being unduly strained, as also when he says that through nystagmus the spirit of the 'physical' makes a broad inroad on the 'neurophysiological.'

The book closes with a 'Siegesgesang' from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

S. A. K. W.


The third volume of this handsome encyclopaedia, the previous volumes of which have already been favourably noticed in this journal, fully maintains
the high standard of its predecessors. A long article of over 150 pages, from
the pen of Professor Marburg, deals with vestibular, cerebellar, and ponto-
cerebellar tumours, and is particularly useful from the viewpoint of differential
diagnosis. In two tables are summarised the symptoms referable respectively
to the cochlear and the vestibular divisions of the eighth nerve when the
site of the tumour is, in turn, in one of the following five positions, viz., ponto-
cerebellar angle, cerebellum, ventricle, pons and medulla, and corpora quad-
rigemina. We do not remember having seen in any other textbook so useful
a compendium of diagnostic data. Dr. Donk writes on the operative treat-
ment of cerebral tumours, and Dr. Sgalitzer on the radiotherapy of ear affec-
tions, inclusive of tumours of the posterior fossa. The difficult problems
concerned with dyskinesis and dystonia and their relation to disorders of the
cochleo-vestibular apparatus are discussed at considerable length by Dr. E.
Pollak, whose article is of much interest at the present time, even if to some
extent inconclusive and open to criticism.

Among other monographs to which attention may be directed are those
on miners' nystagmus, seasickness, on problems arising out of flying, on
neuroses and psychoses in which cochlear and labyrinthine phenomena are
prominent.

No detailed examination of this third volume is possible in the space at
our disposal, but in our opinion it constitutes an admirable addition to
the literature of aural neurology and in its presentment of modern systemat-
ised knowledge easily surpasses previous publications dealing with the same
subjects. It is a fine product of the scientific and clinical activities of the
Viennese school of medicine.

S. A. K. W.

Etudes de Clinique et Pathologie Nerveuse. By D. Paulian, Physician
in Chief of the Neurological Department of the Central Hospital,

Price not stated.

Dr. Paulian has collected in this small volume a number of his papers dealing
with clinical neurology and neuropathology, most of which have already
appeared in foreign journals. Among them we may mention the more out-
standing. One deals with the treatment of epidemic encephalitis, both in its
acute and its chronic stages, by means of 'spinal autoserotherapy,' the patient
receiving by lumbar puncture some 10 cc. of his own blood serum, withdrawn
the day before and injected after being raised to a temperature of 56° C., a
similar quantity of spinal fluid being removed. The results claimed by the
author are such as to justify further experimentation with this method. Another
paper records in detailed fashion the nervous complications of typhus fever,
and is a useful contribution to a little known subject. Another is concerned
with showing that the blood pressure of tabetics is lower than normal, that