REVSWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS

repute have thus cured cases, are bold statements which could hardly be scientifically verified. On investigation such cases have usually been found to have been diagnosed wrongly. One would be much more inclined to state that it is particularly in these two types of psychosis that psychoanalysis would be of little or no avail, though paranoid reactions which not uncommonly are met with in psychoneuroses may be cured by its means. True paranoiacs do not have hallucinations as stated. The relationship of psychoanalysis to the psychoses must be handled more tentatively, or false impressions will be made on uncritical readers be they lay or medical.

Apart from these drawbacks the book deals very well with the functional nervous disorders and is written in a clear and popular style which will make the contents all the more acceptable to a larger sphere of readers. The index shows many important omissions.

C. S. R.


To attempt within comparatively small confines a wide conspectus of the problems of human personality, physiological and pathological, or normal and abnormal, is a task in some ways as difficult as to deal with them after the manner of the encyclopaedia. What strikes the reader of Dr. Gordon’s attractive volume most is possibly the author’s facility in reaching the heart of a problem with succinctness and clarity. There are many questions to be handled if any adequate conception of the mosaic of constituents in personality is to be gained: for example, discussion is required to determine as far as may be the view of the interrelation of mind and body best calculated, in the author’s opinion, to explain personality data. This is only a preliminary problem, as it were, yet it is one of surpassing importance. In common with various writers of recent years, Dr. Gordon clearly tends to favour a hypothesis of a dynamic form of energy, obliterating to a large extent old distinctions between mind and matter, and in support of this monistic attitude he summons to his aid the principle of emergence, according to which there is no inherent inconsistency in the idea that high-grade mental processes should emerge from reflex combinations, since these combinations are more than a sum of their component units. No break of any nonplussing character can be detected in the series from the simple reflex arc, through conditioned reflexes, to those subserving consciousness and reflective thought. In the author’s treatment of normal personality further consideration is given to the large groups of intrinsic and extrinsic factors moulding and modifying it, at varying levels of activity, physiological and endocrinological, and psychological. In respect of the latter, an attempt is made to evaluate the contributions of Freud, Jung, Adler, and Kempf respectively.
The second part of the book deals, on a somewhat restricted scale, with neurotic, delinquent, retarded, and dissociated personalities. If it contains no strikingly novel elements or conclusions, it is none the less readable and informative, and sound in its generalities. The main trend of the author's thought is at least as much practical as theoretical, hence the book can be recommended with confidence to the time-pressed physician, who would familiarise himself with the latest advances in our knowledge of personality problems provided they can be shown to have a bearing on his treatment of clinical material. To all such a volume of this kind should prove in an eminent degree helpful.

S. A. K. W.


Professor Léri has written a particularly useful compendium of knowledge in respect of diseases of the spinal column—a subject rather apt to fall between the two stools of medicine and surgery. The book is divided into five sections, dealing respectively with congenital anomalies (of which we may specify spina bifida and its variants, sacralisation of the fifth lumbar vertebra, cervical rib, reduction in number of vertebrae); traumatic lesions; ankylosing affections; localised vertebral rheumatism; and a final chapter dealing with other conditions less definitely classifiable.

Excellent drawings (clinical, pathological and radiological) photographs, and diagrams accompany and amplify the descriptions, which are clear and accurate, if cast in a somewhat schematised mould. We do not know any volume occupying the position of this, which should fill a gap in medical literature and is sure of wide appreciation by neurologists and internists.


The question of the possible interconnection of mental symptoms with organic cerebral lesions of neoplastic origin has occupied many minds for many years, but not a few of the numerous contributions to the subject have been to a greater or less extent unsatisfactory. As a fact, the problem is beset with difficulties. In the first place, no constant relation between size of tumour and degree of mental disorder can be established, for in some cases small neoplasms are accompanied by considerable mental change, and in others large growths run their course without mental symptoms coming into the picture to any recognisable extent. Secondly, mental disorders of the most miscellaneous kind have been at one or other time described in tumour cases, involving the affective, the intellectual, or the behaviouristic side of the patient's activities, but no one can say with certitude what particular variety is to be expected.
Personality

S. A. K. W.

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