
Any textbook destined for the hands of students and practitioners and dealing with the problems of the mind diseased must have one virtue at least which may cover a number of sins of compilation, and that is—readableness. A dull book on mental disorder would seem a paradox, yet such are known, unfortunately. Those who are familiar with Dr. Norman's published work will look in this handy little volume for readableness and literary allusion and pleasantly humorous comment, and they will not be disappointed. To our mind these traits add materially to its interest; the student most of all should be indebted to its author, for here he has psychiatry without boredom.

Dr. Norman omits prolegomena dealing with normal psychology and presents the reader at once with his conception of the way to approach psychiatric questions. He leaves him in no doubt as to what this is: mind is a term for the functioning of the brain, just as respiration is a term for the functioning of the lungs, although what has become practically axiomatic in neurology "is being but slowly accepted in the pseudo-science of psychology." The classification of mental affections herein adopted is based largely on clinical criteria and if in a sense old is none the less of proved worth. Underlying the psychoses is constitutional instability; the psychoneuroses are separable therefrom: then come symptomatic disorders, that is, disorders arising on known toxic, structural or other alteration of the nervous system. Only after this sufficiently adequate description of clinical varieties is the reader given a discussion of the normal functioning of the mind and a brief sketch of the physiology of the cerebral cortex. Pathological, therapeutic, and legal considerations are in turn developed.

Apart from its more purely technical side this compact handbook contains no little information of a historical and literary kind which indicates the wide range of its author's reading and which will delight all those who like to follow bypaths of medical lore.


We have recently reviewed in this Journal the original German edition of Dr. Muskens' carefully written work on epilepsy, and have alluded to its basis in personal experimental researches on the production of epileptic phenomena in animals and to the general theory of the author, that myoclonic reflexes constitute as it were the framework of the epileptic attack. In its English edition the book will be found to supply what is rather a want in
medical literature at present, for it furnishes a modern setting for the age-old problems of epilepsy and is replete with information of the most varied kind on all of the many aspects of the affection. Some 55 diagrams and illustrations add to its value.

**Selected Papers of Karl Abraham.** With an introductory memoir by **Ernest Jones.** Translated by **Douglas Bryan** and **Alix Strachey.**

This large volume of twenty-six separate psychoanalytical papers and essays, mainly arranged in chronological order, contains the whole of Abraham's more important work dating from 1907 to the year of his death (1925). In the introductory memoir the salient features of these contributions are well reviewed and appraised. It is apparent at once from a glance at the subjects herein dealt with that they cover a wide field and it is equally evident when they are read that they are illuminating in character. Because of their extensive variety Ernest Jones groups them under the headings of childhood-sexuality, clinical subjects, general topics, and applied psychoanalysis. Clinically, special interest centres round the work done on the psychopathology of dementia praecox and manic-depressive insanity. Much stimulating material is also found in the analytic work dealing with hysterical dream states, loco-motor anxiety, war shock cases, and alcoholism. Those who are in the best position to judge would probably select Abraham's findings on oral erotism as his most valuable contribution. Those who are sufficiently well versed in the subject to profit from reading this book and are interested in psychoanalytic conceptions will find much here of great value. A complete bibliography of all Abraham's scientific publications is appended.


During late years the ground more or less covered by the author has been dealt with by others but such a difficult subject could not possibly be more ably presented than Dr. Mitchell has done in these pages. There are few authorities who are capable of dealing with the conflicting views of psychopathology so concisely or with such clarity, and of summing up in a broad and critical scientific spirit the values of the various schools of thought. Pre-Freudian psychology is first briefly dealt with, but as it is considered that the psychoanalytic approach is most worthy of consideration the main part of the volume is devoted to an exposition of Freudian theories. The chapters on the theory of the libido, the instincts, the ego, and the neuroses, are models of lucidity, and herein Freud's more recent work is discussed. After dealing with the applications of medical psychology, there is a survey of its doctrines and the varying concepts of the "post-Freudians," Jung and Adler, are shortly
and clearly discussed. Dr. Mitchell states that he has taken psychoanalysis as his main theme because "it is the dominating influence in all the work on medical psychology that is being done in this country at the present time. It is the centre around which all other schools of mental pathology and mental therapeutics revolve. Those who are hostile to many of its tenets cannot get away from it, although they cannot accept it. It thus remains a force which has important effects far beyond the range of influence exerted by the relatively small group of workers who unreservedly acknowledge themselves adherents." The book gives one an excellent insight into the problems of psychopathology and for this purpose can be highly recommended.


Professor Conklin's book is intended for students of psychology, though it deals almost entirely with psychopathology in the widest sense of the term. This extension of the realm of what is ordinarily understood by psychology is characteristic of the day; in other years the student of psychology took a course which was a constituent of the curriculum for an arts degree; now, the tendency obviously is for his instruction to be coloured with a most distinctly medical tinge. If he is to be familiarised with the psychoses, psychoneuroses, shell-shock, abnormalities of sleep, and what not, we may ask what becomes of the science and art of psychiatry, and whether psychopathology should come under the province of the physician, or of the psychologist who may be ignorant of the physiology of the brain in health and disease. The question is important and likely to become more so, and on its solution much of good or ill for the future of medicine is calculated to depend.

The volume under review is replete with medical cases (apt and informative enough), yet we are told by the writer that psychology and medical practice are two distinct and separate things which are too often confused. This statement is open to considerable criticism if we believe that the brain is the organ of mind. In our opinion discussions of the mental affects of drugs, of feeblemindedness and idiocy, of disorders of sleep, of hysteria, paranoia and epilepsy—such as are well set forth in the author's pages—belong to medicine, to psychological medicine if that is thought a better expression, and to deal with them properly medical training is a sine qua non. As physiology is part of the medical student's course, so ought psychology to be; not otherwise can he become a soundly trained psychopathologist. Professor Conklin deals further with phenomena not usually regarded as having a medical bearing, viz., those connected with spiritism, telepathy, genius, and so forth, and his discussion is couched throughout in a lucid and readable style. Many of his comments on current theories are peculiarly shrewd; what may be termed the viewpoint of common sense receives full consideration. Numerous references to the literature are given at the close of each section.

These interestingly written essays deal with such mental phenomena as memory, emotion, consciousness, sleep, dreams, symbolism, somnambulism, and are both sound in theory and facile in expression. The author believes patently in the approach to psychology from the side of biology and physiology and is convinced of the futility of psychological hypotheses if they can be shown to run contrary to observed facts of these latter sciences. This, of course, is in a sense to compare incomparables; nevertheless, his contention has its value, for it is in accordance with recent trends in thought and research which are serving to bridge the assumed gulf between the neural and psychical spheres.

The analysis of the phenomena of the above-mentioned groups is conducted in a reasonable if comparatively simple fashion: controversial points are not tabooed yet are not accorded any profound examination. Hypotheses associated with the names of Freud and others of the school of psychoanalysis are discussed fairly if superficially, and on the whole unfavourably. The chapter on sleep is possibly the least adequate in the book; discarded views are given some attention while the work of Pavlov is referred to briefly but not in respect of his experiments on sleep, his collected volume on conditioned reflexes making its appearance when the author's book was already in the press. Unsatisfactory, too, are some of the arguments in regard to the seat of the emotions; the assumption that "the collection of the neurones into ganglionic groups in the optic thalamus may be due to a primary grouping of the various emotions" is contrary to the facts of both neuropathology and experimental physiology. Nor can we understand the view that "the extrapyramidal tract (sic) consists of fibres passing down from the corpus striatum to the sympathetic ganglia" (sic). This remarkable statement will not bear investigation. There is a certain weakness in the author's knowledge of present-day neurological problems which rather detracts from the force with which he maintains his general thesis, even if with it we are more or less in sympathy.


For the neurologist the chief points of interest in this little volume are concerned with subacute combined degeneration of the cord, and with epilepsy, asthma, and migraine. In respect of the former Dr. Hurst urges its constant association with achlorhydria and malignant anaemia, and stresses its frequent occurrence in families one or more of whose members reveal signs of achylia gastrica—an "inborn error of secretion." Obviously, this view can be proved or disproved only by patient accumulation of clinical data; we do not think
that up to the present it has received universal support however impressive in some instances of the spinal affection the association appears to be. The other conditions alluded to above are classed by the writer as paroxysmal neuroses, whose basis is the existence of some constitutional and often inherited excitability—an "irritable centre"—in one or other part of the nervous system. It is doubtful if this view is wholly deserving of credence, particularly because of the ready appearance of epileptic phenomena in normal individuals (as in normal experimental animals) should circulatory, toxic, or other factors come into being.


Dr. **Millais Culpin** tilts at current conceptions of "functional" nervous affections, and his strictures contain a considerable element of truth, far though they are from being novel or new. Seeking in his turn a more satisfactory definition of what is understood by a neurosis, he takes it to indicate "a disturbance of the intrinsic function of nerve tissue," and appeals for its avoidance if we have to deal with the *behaviour* of the person or patient concerned. It should be restricted to disorders that can be described in terms of physiology. Thus understood, it appears to us to come near to standing for any and all nervous symptoms, which clearly are the exteriorisation of neural dysfunction, and so dangerously close to an unspecific and meaningless term. Dr. Culpin possibly foresees this objection, for he declares that a neurosis is diagnosed "by the recognition of associated symptoms of mental disturbance, that is, by the coexistence of a minor psychosis." Yet by way of illustration he quotes a case of telegraphist's cramp which "was not truly a neurosis: it was a minor psychosis, a disturbance of behaviour like a stammer." But as the patient had palpitation and sweating also, these "can rightly be called neuroses, since they are disturbances of intrinsic nervous function."

We do not see that Dr. Culpin's exposition makes for either clinical or physiological clarity: but we are at one with him in his complaint about the vagueness of present-day teaching where "functional" affections are concerned. Through this essay runs a thread of somewhat heavy and sardonic comment which we consider rather regrettable; all of us make mistakes in diagnosis occasionally, and if, as Dr. Culpin says, "more than once or twice the surgeon was called on to open an 'acute abdomen' the owner of which returned to duty within a few hours," he might remember with advantage that myasthenics and patients with cerebral tumour have been submitted to useless psychotherapy, also more than once or twice. Extracts of organs, "mentionable and unmentionable, that form a valuable by-product of Chicago meat-works," have their place, even if on occasion the physician prescribing them sees in their use a way of escape from an unsolved problem.
Clinical Neurology for Practitioners of Medicine and Medical Students
(largely based on the book by Prof. Dr. Hans Curschmann). By Edward A. Strecker, A.M., M.D., and Milton K. Myers, B.S., LL.B., M.D.

This book is based upon a similar work by Professor Hans Curschmann, with the addition of new material by the two American authors. Intended as a "brief clinical exposition of neurology," it may claim to some success in this respect, though its value is marred by the dogmatic and sweeping character of certain pronouncements. Such bald statements as "the globus pallidus and its projections preside over automatic and associated movements," or, "epilepsy is a dreadful disease," may be selected as examples of a misplaced dogmatism. Many minor points catch the critical eye. Thus to dismiss the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia by alcoholic injections in the sentence, "Alcohol has been injected into the Gasserian ganglion" seems inadequate, even in a small textbook. Graves' disease and myxœdema are as a rule so well treated in text books of internal medicine that their somewhat sketchy description here seems hardly justified. The reader may justly be irritated by coming upon such vague phrases as, "In myasthenia we must deal with the possibility that the endocrine disturbances are only the co-ordinated syndrome in a general dysplastic state of affairs." We cannot approve the treatment which has been recommended for Raynaud's disease of "making fine incisions into the affected part and sucking up the cyanotic blood in a water pump," nor can we find any justification for the suggestion that resection of the sympathetic would be of value in the treatment of facial hemiatrophy.

A. F.
Reviews and Notices of Books

A. F.

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