realism "an internal and intimate coherence," which in disease bursts aside the customary bonds of our thought. He is dissatisfied with theories attributing the phenomena to cœnaesthetic disorders, in the sense that such disorders often can be discovered in the absence of mental concomitants, while on the other hand the manner in which any existing cœnaesthetic impairment is experienced still remains to be explained; this is a question of the mental state of the patient. In regard to the fact of language incoherence, the writer points out that language is a derivative of the "group" to which the individual belongs; the latter, in order to be understood, must subordinate his individualistic traits to the general concepts of the group. His private experiences—all that reaches his consciousness from the depths of his own organs—can be felt only by himself. Cœnaesthetic experience cannot be compared with that of another; it is felt "as an indistinct mass underlying clear consciousness and its doings." Consequently, since language is the fruit of collective experience, cœnaesthesia and collective experience contradict one another.

In this fashion does Professor Blondel seek to explain the unintelligibilities of the insane mind; it is speaking another language than that of normal consciousness; it is trying to express the unknown in terms of the known; in a certain sense, it is in rebellion against the conceptual system of the healthy, conscious mind.

Ingenious all this pleading is, and illuminating too; but there are difficulties, as the writer himself is well aware. Not all insane minds speak an unknown language; actual, definite disorders of cœnaesthesia do not appear by any means always to bulk largely in the insane consciousness; the line between sanity and insanity is not to be drawn as sharply as is here done for the sake of argument. In fact, Professor Blondel admits with disarming candour that "it is not in the cœnaesthetic disorders of which we all have experience, but in the way in which they react, that our patients differ from us." To this extent the theory fails to explain the facts it professes to elucidate.

S. A. K. W.


As a result of numerous experiments on animals Dr. Doppler found that it was possible to produce a physiological block in the vasoconstrictors of vessels by painting the exposed artery with a 5-7 per cent. watery solution of phenol. He showed this exercised a neutralising effect on vasoconstrictor fibres without injuring the vessel otherwise. (The solution is on the market under the name of "Isophenal"). In this way all the effects of the Leriche operation (periarterial sympathectomy) can be brought about in unobjectionable fashion, and, according to the writer, in a more intensive degree. By "Sympathicodiaphtheresis" is signified the production of arterial hyperæmia through the removal
of pathological vasoconstriction, and the process has been adopted successfully in cases of arteriosclerotic gangrene, Raynaud syndromes, etc.

In this slender brochure, further experiences with the method in cases of defective function of the glands of internal secretion are fully described. Details of technique are supplied, and difficulties exposed. Dr. Doppler has made the experiment some 250 times, and has never seen any ill results from the carbolic acid. He has worked largely on cases of ovarian and testicular dysfunction, and claims astonishing results; if his contentions are substantiated, the method certainly deserves the fullest clinical trial.


A useful monograph of this kind, embodying within its pages information culled from wide sources and enriched by much personal experience of a direct kind, serves at once to illustrate how much is known of the mental and physical traits of the mongolian and how little of their causation. Figures, statistics, minute clinical descriptions, comparative tables and psychological compilations really do little else than by contrast to emphasise the barrenness of the etiological field. Dr. Brousseau summarises her conclusions on causation in eight paragraphs, seven of which are negative! She excludes primitive reversion, parental infection, neuropathic heredity, extreme age of parents at conception, any relation to position in family, mental strain on the part of the pregnant mother, and disease of maternal reproductive organs respectively; and her eighth, and only positive, deduction is, that mongolian imbecility is possibly induced by "some obscure disturbance of the ductless glands." Alas! in the present state of knowledge this is little else than an anticlimax. Yet it may well prove a stimulus; at the least it clears the ground.


For those who practise psycho-analysis a handbook of this kind is indispensable. In a brief preface Dr. Ernest Jones considers it represents "the most comprehensive and one of the most original contributions to the difficult problem of technique in psycho-analysis that have ever been made," which is high praise and surely merited. The student and practitioner of this particular variety of investigation and therapy is taken by regular stages from the opening of psycho-analytic procedures to their termination, and at every point difficulties and uncertainties are faced with the utmost candour and with unmistakable
skill. Throughout, the rigidly practical nature of the study emerges; the matter of fees is mentioned, and the question of whether at the outset the analyst should shake hands or not. The author writes with conviction, and is unusually lucid: and for those who accept the whole theory he is unquestionably impressive. He considers that difficulties incident to the analyst are more important than those relating to the patient, and believes that unconscious bias on the part of the former can be overcome only by his being analysed himself.

The general fairness of the author is maintained all through; only on one occasion, perhaps, has he allowed himself to depart from it, as when he would attribute "gross professional negligence" to the practitioner who does not associate the sequence of "neuritis, amenorrhoea, and divorce" with impotence on the part of the husband. After all, there are many causes of each of these, and their sequence in time is no evidence of their having an identical causation. Further, no "neuritis" in a neurological sense can possibly be "caused" by the impotential of someone else.


This textbook of experimental neurology supplies what has been rather a want in neurological literature, viz., a convenient book dealing not merely with neurophysiology in the strict sense but also with experimental neuropathology. That is, the writer provides both a compendium of laboratory neurophysiology and an account of the changes in the nervous system associated with pathological processes, experimental and otherwise. An introductory chapter describing technique is followed by a general exposition of the functions of nerves and nerve-centres and by an examination of the different theories of the biochemical basis of neural activity. The major part of the volume concerns reflex activity in its widest sense; a good description is furnished of the influence of different pathological factors on that activity. Nearly one hundred pages are occupied with the physiology of the vegetative nervous system; its anatomo-physiological features are clearly set forth, and here also the reader is provided with descriptions of its experimental neuropathology. Taken as a whole the book is remarkable for its multum-in-parvo character, and will prove as serviceable to the clinical neurologist of scientific mind as to the experimentalist.


An excellent little volume on juvenile delinquency. After chapters on the conceptions of crime and punishment, the delinquent personality is dealt with and the social, educational, psychological, and medical factors are discussed. The future aims in prevention and treatment are clearly set out in conclusion.
The subject is very interestingly reviewed in its various modern aspects without any unnecessary details. As a comprehensive survey of an important social problem, simply and yet scientifically handled, the contents of these pages can be most thoroughly recommended.

C. S. R.


Dr. Wingfield set himself the problem of attempting a differentiation between environmental and hereditary characteristics. Ambitious and possibly unrealisable as this may seem to some, his approach is ingenious and capable of imparting much useful information. Such questions as the following are posited: (1) How great is the resemblance in mental traits among children of the same parents or ancestry? (2) What part of the future adult is really determined by the school as an agency of his environment and what part is beyond the control of the school? (3) Does education affect only the generation to which it is given, and if so, why?

For his immediate purposes, he has studied groups of fraternal and identical twins on the one hand, and, on the other, groups of orphans reared for a certain proportion of their lives in a fairly constant environment. The research has been conducted in a scientific spirit. Among the conclusions we note that twins are no more alike in these traits upon which the school has concentrated its training than in general intelligence; environment is inadequate to account for the mental resemblances of twins. Like-sex pairs of twins show a greater degree of resemblance in intelligence than unlike-sex pairs. Moreover, physically identical pairs show a higher degree of mental resemblance than fraternal pairs. Orphan children, who have been reared together for a considerable portion of their lives, are no more alike than unrelated children paired at random, either in general intelligence or in other intellectual traits.

The significance of these generalisations is distinctly impressive.


The first lecture epitomizes the views of the distinguished author of this brochure on the "psychical" law in the structure of the nervous system which has been termed neurobiotaxis. In the second the phylogeny and ontogeny of the corpus striatum are summarised, the descriptions being based largely on comparative anatomy. The differences in the striatal complex of various animal levels are well illustrated, and it is regarded as doubtful whether its actual highest development is in man: compared with the brainstem its size is larger in some of the lower mammals. Kappers states there are some connexions between the neopallium and the neostriatum, "but only few." The development of the cortex and the functions of its different layers is the subject of the
Reviews and Notices of Books

C. S. R.

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