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 epitomises 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
third lecture. Among general conclusions, we note that supragranular layer develop pari passu with corticopetal and association fibres; in the higher animals their cells increase much more than those of any other layer; and in this respect there is an analogy with striatum and cerebellum, in which organs a similar increase of "receptive correlative cells" is found, in comparison with "effector parts."


For the first time there has been brought into one volume a selection from an enormous bibliography of contributions to every conceivable aspect of the problems furnished by drug addiction. More than one thousand closely printed pages, dealing with etiology, symptomatology, pathology, treatment, and not omitting more general sociological considerations, such as international, national, state, and municipal control—here is a mine of solid information in which the student may dig to his heart's content. From the more purely medical and neurological standpoint the chapters on pathology and semiology will repay perusal; they are exceptionally interesting and informative. In this country we believe it to be a matter of general experience that cases of drug-taking are on the decrease, due no doubt in part to diminishing facilities, but not by any means exclusively so. Nevertheless cases of this kind still occur and demand special skill and knowledge on the part of those who handle them. The chapter on treatment contains a précis of the best methods in vogue, and it too will remunerate its reader.

With the wider questions of control and suppression we are individually less concerned; but the first step towards these desirable ends is constituted by complete exposure of the facts, and this task the Committee on Drug Addiction has performed admirably.

A Classification of Neurological, Psychiatric, and Endocrine Disorders.


The Committee of the American Neurological Association appointed to furnish this classification of diseases, or rather disorders, were faced with an onerous task, but they have acquitted themselves very well indeed. Criticism must be confined to one or two points. In the index cervical rib is not mentioned, nor is Parkinson's disease (a surprising omission, since it is given in the text on p. 23); meralgia paraesthetica is misprinted "meralga," more than once. Both psychoneuroses and paroxysmal disorders are omitted from the index, but are referred to throughout the text. Degenerative tic (Gilles de la Tourette's disease) is included in the group of degeneration and sclerosis of combined grey and white matter, yet it is far from being so definitely structural as the amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Friedreich's disease put on either side of it. Under progressive muscular dystrophy the Buzzard type, the distal type, and Erb's juvenile type might have found a place.

These are minor details. The book itself represents a courageous attempt to introduce systematisation into a confusing subject.
Reviews and Notices of Books

*J Neurol Psychopathol* 1929 s1-9: 287-288
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.s1-9.35.287

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/s1-9/35/287.citation

Email alerting service

*These include:*
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/