effects of contusions of the brain and spinal cord; and the less practical researches on the repair of wounds of the brain and spinal cord may have for him only a scientific interest. Yet who can say that the exact knowledge which this book gives of the reactions of the cerebral cortex to injury may not be applied to the solution of some of the problems of neuropathology and even of psychopathology which continually tease us? Altogether the book is of the greatest value both as a record of scientific work, and as a basis for future studies.

J. G. G.


Of the renewed interest taken in the problems of epilepsy in these days this compilation affords ample proof. The viewpoint of the authors is mainly that of physiology, and to some extent also that of treatment. It is satisfying to the neurologist to find them getting to grips with the technical features of the convulsive attack and with the physiological phenomena underlying it; mere description may be of service to the beginner in medicine, but pathogenic difficulties are always prominent in the background. The irritation, the release, the short circuit and the explosive theories are in turn examined and the conclusion drawn is, as may be surmised, eclectic; none of them is by itself satisfactory; probably all seizures are combinations of two or more of the four mechanisms. It is satisfactory, too, to note the authors' recognition of the disproportion between convulsion and 'lesion,' and that a disorder of function, a mode of reaction, constitutes a problem in physiology and not in pathological anatomy. The factor of 'functional abnormality' can be conceived of as embodying an unknown 'reactive capacity,' and also one that is related to physicochemical changes on the one hand and to the emotional or affective life on the other.

The greater part of the book deals with the former of these last two, viz., the effects of physicochemical changes in nerve-cells, and with the influence thereon of extrinsic factors such as the condition of the circulatory system, alimentary system, endocrine glands, blood, urine, and so forth; acid-base relationships and the metabolism of protein, carbohydrate and fat are similarly investigated from the standpoint of their effect on neural tissue. All this is examined technically and lucidly, even if the general impression left on the reader is one of diversity and incompleteness of knowledge; yet we find a summary of the authors' conviction in a sentence which parallels and paraphrases one of Hippocrates' dicta: "whoever is acquainted with physiology and can render a man acidotic, dehydrated and fully oxygenated could also repress this disease, without minding purification of narcissistic personalities, ritualistic empirical diets and all other illiberal practices of a like kind."
useful and practical purpose has been served by this presentment of current knowledge, gleaned from a wide literature and rendered the more valuable by the authors' criticisms and personal conclusions.  

S. A. K. W.

De l'Angoisse à l'Extase ; Études sur les Croyances et les Sentiments.  
By Dr. Pierre Janet, Professor of Psychology at the Collège de France.  

All those who are admirers of the clinical and analytical genius of Professor Janet will enjoy his latest volume, which in its format is identical with his classical Névroses et Idées Fixes of a quarter of a century ago. Taking as his basis the mysticism and ecstasy of the patient known as Madeleine (whose case is described at length in a preceding volume of which we have received no copy for review), the veteran psychologist enters on a long and minute examination of the influence of a profound sense of joy ("ce bonheur perpétuel et quelquefois sublime") in modifying thought and intellectual processes. By natural stages the reader is taken to a discussion of the sentiments and to an examination of those common clinical cases in which alternations of affect predominate, to manic-depressive psychosis and other forms. The four elementary sentiments of effort, fatigue, sadness and happiness are subjected to a similar minute investigation. A third section is devoted to the interrelation and organisation of emotions, beatitudes, and sentiments.

It is perhaps a little remarkable that comparatively slight attention is directed to the religious sentiment, especially since the clinical material of mysticism and ecstasy exhibits frequently a definite religious aspect, but Professor Janet takes the line that religion influences only external forms; in the case of Madeleine the religious setting is at once apparent, yet similar psychopathological phenomena occur independently of any religious background. The beatitudes of morphia-taking are analogous clinical data but have nothing to do with that particular sentiment. "No confessor, no convent directrix, is responsible for diseased conditions which can appear in exactly the same guise in individuals who profess no religion at all."

As with all of Professor Janet's work, it is lucidly and charmingly written, and is well documented. Of references to Freud's psychological work there are comparatively few; the author justly criticises the limitations and systematisations of the latter's view of angoisse and by a few well-chosen clinical instances underlines its essential incompleteness. A good index adds to the usefulness of the volume.

S. A. K. W.

Instinct and Personality.  By A. Campbell Garnett.  

Dr. Campbell Garnett's book adapts and modifies McDougall's views on instinct, but is disappointingly reticent and vague, as all academic studies of the subject tend to be, on 'personality.' The author takes a monistic view of mind-body relationship, and robs the instincts of any
Epilepsy

S. A. K. W.

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