

BOOK REVIEWS

Sir William Gowers—1845–1915. A Biographical Appreciation. By Macdonald Critchley. 1949. Limited Edition. William Heinemann, Ltd. Price 17s. 6d.

The name of Sir William Gowers, like that of his great contemporary, Dr. Hughlings Jackson, is known to neurologists all the world over. But while Jackson's contributions have attracted increasing attention with the passing of the years, the many outstanding achievements of Gowers have not perhaps received their full measure of recognition. To compare these two great men is, however, as the author truly writes, "a vain pursuit for they were so different in turn, of thought, in culture and in temperament." A biography of Sir William Gowers, "who has contributed more than any other to the study of nervous diseases," was much to be desired and is very welcome. Macdonald Critchley is to be congratulated for he has produced an admirable description of the personality of, and the contributions to knowledge by, a brilliant clinician. His biography will be read with keen interest and appreciation by the few who recall Sir William, and will intrigue all who profess to follow the specialty in the elucidation of which Gowers was such a prominent pioneer.

William Gowers was brought up in humble and straitened circumstances. His father died when he was eleven; he left school at fifteen, and was then attached as an apprentice for two years to a local medical practitioner, when his chief duties were to dispense medicines and drive the doctor's gig. Even in his early days he was evidently an assiduous worker for in 1863, the year he passed his London matriculation, he wrote in his diary "I fortunately woke about five . . . did mathematics until nearly 6.30 and a little of an Ode of Horace, and then German until breakfast." When an undergraduate he acquired a knowledge of shorthand, the value of which he so persistently advocated in after years. Botany and chess were at that time his chief recreations. He became, too, a skilful draughtsman, though he never had a lesson, and he was in later life a talented etcher.

After a very distinguished undergraduate career, he acted as assistant and secretary to Sir William Jenner. Perhaps it was Sir Russell Reynolds who, in Gowers' student days at University College Hospital, directed his attention to neurology. Appointed Registrar to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic in 1870, he was elected an assistant physician to University College Hospital two years later. Gowers' name is so closely associated with neurology that we are apt to forget that he held the Chair of Medicine at University College (but resigned in 1888), wrote several short papers on general medicine, and invented his hæmoglobinometer which was for so long in general use. Was it this early experience which prompted him occasionally to say, "The neurologist must be a specialist, he cannot be an exclusivist"?

A brief reference to the scope of neurological practice in the seventies, a photograph of the distinguished Staff of the National Hospital in 1887, and a note on the respective ages of the leading neurologists in this country and overseas in 1880, when Gowers was thirty-five, are of much interest. All who remember Sir William Gowers will recall "the glint of his ice-blue

eyes," his harsh strident voice, and his caustic speech. His manner was rather cold and aloof, he often withheld praise, was sometimes intolerant, and was admired rather than liked by his colleagues. But for Hughlings Jackson and his achievements he had a deep regard and admiration, and when the bust of his senior colleague was unveiled in the Hall of the National Hospital, Gowers, who delivered an address, referred to him as "our Master." Yet despite his somewhat unattractive personality, Gowers was a satisfactory chief to work for; his house-physicians learned much from him, he showed an appreciation of their efforts, and he gave due credit to those who served him well.

A scholarly epitome of some of Gowers' activities and a few of his more important contributions to the literature from 1872 onwards is engrossing. Elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and appointed Goulstonian Lecturer in 1879, he selected epilepsy as his subject. His book on epilepsy appeared some years later; and a second edition in 1901, based on some 3,000 personally observed cases, remains a classic to this day. In 1878 he also published his "Diagnosis of Diseases of the Spinal Cord," a "Monograph on Pseudo-hypertrophic Paralysis," and a "Manual of Medical Ophthalmoscopy." These were but a foretaste of what was to come from his pen in the years that followed. There are, indeed, few aspects of neurology to which he did not add his quota and illuminate. A complete bibliography is an invaluable addition to the volume. Gowers' name is especially associated with his "Manual of Diseases of the Nervous System"—his *magnum opus*—the first volume of which appeared in 1886, the second in 1888. Translated into several European languages, it may well be called "the Bible of Neurology." "Anyone who thinks he has stumbled on something new should not neglect to search the Manual before claiming originality." How true it is that "almost all the bricks and mortar of this edifice were culled from his own case notes and clinical memory." Even the illustrations were original, for they were drawn by his own hand.

"As a neurologist Gowers' role was that of an accurate diagnostician and a teacher"; he relied on close application, keen observation, a brilliant memory, and painstaking physical examination; he did not compile data from the published work of others; he did not employ the methods of experimental investigation; he was able to pick out a species which had not previously been described or labelled; he took elaborate shorthand notes of all his cases, and filed special lists of the unusual or the bizarre. Among Gowers' contributions to neurology, we all recall the tract in the spinal cord known by his name, that it was he who introduced the term "knee jerk" and he who diagnosed the tumour of the spinal cord, which was removed by Horsley in 1888—the first operation of the kind recorded in the literature. But these are *inter alia* isolated items, for Gowers' chief contributions which are here referred to may be described as "the recognition of a number of salient, novel and important clinico-pathological features culled from his experience." He had a literary style which was distinguished, simple, arresting, and clear. As a teacher he was "brilliant, stimulating, interesting, informative," and his teaching clinics were thronged.

The author in a concluding sentence pays fitting tribute to a great Master when he writes "We may close with the challenging statement that William Gowers was the greatest clinical neurologist of all time."

Neurology. By Roy R. Grinker and Paul C. Bucy. 1949. Blackwell Scientific Publications. Pp. 1138; 393 illustrations. Price 63s.

This American textbook of neurology has much to commend it. Dr. Bucy has now become joint editor, and his influence, especially on the sections concerned with neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and cerebral tumours, has made the book more up-to-date and useful than many current textbooks of neurology. It is of course easy to find something to criticize in a textbook; for example, the sections on some of the more medical aspects of neurology, such as the section on poliomyelitis, are somewhat uninspired. Many of the views expressed regarding head injuries will not be accepted by most students of this form of trauma. The suggestion on p. 834 that basal skull fracture with facial paralysis should have the nerve explored is unfortunate, for recovery in this type of injury is almost invariable unless otitis media supervenes. However, this textbook will be found to be a mine of information, most of which is reliable and remarkably up-to-date. Most of the numerous illustrations are excellent.

Atlas of Neuropathology. By Wm. Blackwood, T. C. Dodds, and J. C. Sommerville. 1949. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. Pp. xi + 199, with 262 figures. Price 35s.

There is, at the present time, a very definite need for a good atlas of neuropathology and at first glance this beautifully produced book appears to fill the gap. It is designed to present to clinicians or pathologists the most important pathological conditions in a clear and simple way. Many of the illustrations are of the highest quality, but a few fail adequately to illustrate the lesion they are supposed to show. The main faults in the book are the overcondensed descriptions of the pathological conditions illustrated, and the unnecessarily lavish layout, which has made it more expensive than it need be. Carbon monoxide poisoning, described in fourteen lines of letterpress, is illustrated by five figures and the whole occupies four pages. It would be an improvement to show and describe the condition on two pages.

It is to be hoped that when a second edition is called for there will be less space wasted, and that more illustrations of common conditions will be given. The bibliography of thirty-seven items contains five references to muscle and three to Wernicke's encephalopathy, but none to the classical papers on disseminated sclerosis. It is to be hoped that a more representative and useful bibliography will be prepared for the next edition.

Pathology of the Nervous System. A Student's Introduction. By J. Henry Biggart. 1949. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. Second Edition. Pp. xii + 352, with 232 figures and 10 colour plates. Price 21s.

The second edition of this excellent little book retains the same plan as the first, though there has been a good deal of revision. The author's intention has been to "help the student to apply the general principles of pathology . . . to the lesions of the nervous system," and in this he has in general been successful. Rare and obscure conditions receive only passing notice, and the bulk of the book is devoted to common and important

pathological conditions. The illustrations are well chosen and are of a high quality.

One feature of the book is disappointing and suggests a hurried revision. Recent papers which are referred to in the text are not added to the short bibliographies at the ends of the chapters. This is a pity, since the student who is given the date of a paper with no journal reference is even less likely to look it up than he would be if a complete reference were given. Nevertheless, this book can be strongly recommended to students and to those who undertake the thorny journey which leads to specialization in neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry.

Verstehende Psychologie (Erlebnislehre). By Hans W. Gruhle. 1948. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. Pp. xi + 622. Price RM.30.

This "textbook," as the author himself calls it, really a noteworthy contribution to our knowledge and understanding of a branch of psychology which is little studied, the psychology of "understanding" and of empathy. In the first part an outline is given of the "psychology of experience," and its materials and methods are presented. The second larger part shows the wide field of its possible applications, in the humanities such as history, education, social science, and the arts and jurisprudence, as well as in biology and medicine. Gruhle's intention is not to establish a new psychological theory, or to found a new school, but to explore those psychological phenomena which in his view cannot be dealt with by the methods of natural science with the dominant aim towards quantification. Psychic functions which are only realized by inner experience, such as consciousness, volition, the self, thinking, imagery and emotions, are beyond the reach of such methods. Gruhle does not deny the value of an approach "from outside" along the lines of behaviourist experiment, the physiology of sensation and perception, electrophysiology, and neuro-anatomy. These methods have contributed much and will contribute more to the progress of psychological knowledge. But he is concerned with the central core of phenomena, the focus to which all these methods of approach are directed. The phenomena are directly known to each of us in our inner experience; their study is what Gruhle calls pure psychology.

There is nothing mysterious about this psychology. On the contrary, its facts are tacitly assumed in any theory of psychology. They are described in Gruhle's book as they are empirically ascertained, and in lucid and simple language. Psychological experience of this kind is communicated from man to man, and not only by the roundabout method of self-description; this leads to the problem of psychological understanding and empathy. The study of expressive movement, gestures, physiognomics, physical appearance, and the varieties of bodily constitution can then be discussed. The various ways we formulate our ideas about character, temperament, intelligence, and personality are described and criticized; and the first part of the book concludes with a discussion of the influence of psychological experience on man's personal environment and the shaping of his life.

In the second part no offer is made to historians, philologists, social scientists, and educationists to solve all their problems by psychology. On the contrary, Gruhle pays a tribute to the value of the special modes of approach peculiar to each of these sciences. But he does indicate how many of their problems are human problems, demanding the collaboration of psychology, and he shows how small is the extent to which psych-

logical knowledge and ideas have been used. The author's profound knowledge of the literature of many branches of science and the humanities is used to illuminate a wide field of facts. It makes this work a unique treasure of psychological information drawn from all possible sources. Eighteen pages of references and an excellent index of persons and subjects add to the accomplishment. This volume, which was written during a period in which the author was dismissed by Hitler from his post as an academic teacher, is the product of a courageous, clear, and critical mind, combining scholarship with the wisdom of an experienced physician.

Prognose und Therapie der Geisteskrankheiten. Second Edition. By Max Müller. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. Pp. viii plus 209. Price DM. 16.50.

The first edition of this work appeared in 1935, so that the second has had to be entirely re-written in order to provide an account of the major methods of physical treatment of the psychoses which have appeared since that date. In the first part of the book prognosis and treatment are discussed in a general way; the indications and the methods of individual and group psychotherapy, fever therapy, insulin treatment, convulsive therapy, continuous sleep, and prefrontal leucotomy are dealt with systematically and comprehensively. In the second part of the book, schizophrenia, manic-depressive psychoses, syphilis, epilepsy, and toxic psychoses are separately discussed; and it is in this part of the book that problems of prognosis come to the fore. Prognostic aspects of psychiatry tend to be treated in a most cursory way in most Anglo-American textbooks. They are here given the attention that is due to their importance. Throughout, the reader will find a sane and balanced attitude to aetiology and psychopathology, and to the limitations of the various methods of treatment. If a criticism must be made, it is that the data provided about leucotomy are inadequate, both in the clinical and anatomical aspects, and that its use in other than schizophrenic psychoses is hardly considered.

Man's Quest for Significance. By Lewis Way. 1948. London. George Allen and Unwin. Pp. 211. Price 12s. 6d.

This is a diagnosis of our times, based on Adlerian psychology but without an unpleasant amount of psychological jargon. The argument runs as follows. In pre-industrial society every man had his own place, which provided him with a feeling of individual worth; with the advent of industrialization this was lost, and the individual became but one of a crowd, without social integration. Hence the popular demand for security. A similar anarchic change has taken place in the mutual relations of the sexes; the family is disorganized; children lack a stable background. Despite their gregariousness, all men are enemies of one another. Society, assuming greater responsibilities, stifles individual initiative. The environment is morally mediocre and physically sordid. Art and culture have nothing to say to the ordinary man. The populace is standardized at a dead level; and the omnipotent state introduces order only by trampling down private rights and individual opinions. The egoism of the majority glorifies itself in the worship of the community. Democracy declines. Political parties become reactionary or revolutionary, and ever more extremist. The extremist attitude spreads from the smallest to the largest units. Even the smaller nations are suppressed

and regimented under the domination of one or two world powers. A re-orientation is imperative. The author suggests that the aim of any government should be to cultivate the worth of the individual. Although bureaucrats are happiest when persons can be treated as ciphers, the individual is the source of all values, the creator of every achievement, the moving force of history.

Probably, although almost every step in the author's thesis is disputable, and his presentation strikes the critical reader as partial and one-sided, his final conclusions will meet with general sympathy.

Du Réflexe au Psychique : Présentation du Système Nerveux. By Paul Cossa. 1948. 86 figs. Desclée de Brouwer, Bruges. Pp. 286. Price 125 fr.

This book is one number of a library, the *Études Carmélitaines*, which bears the imprint "L'attitude spiritualiste n'est ni plus gratuite ni plus irrationnelle que l'attitude mécaniste." It is therefore a work of science which has received the stamp of Catholic approval. As one might gather from the title it is a simplified but on the whole very full presentation of the present state of our knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the human nervous system. It is intended for a non-medical as well as a medical audience. The first chapter is entitled "From Amoeba to Man"; but it is noteworthy that the comparative anatomy of the nervous system is only touched on, and there is no discussion of the theory of evolution. The rest of the book proceeds in an orderly manner from the simple reflex arc to higher nervous activity and finally to the physiology of perception, the clinical effects of neurological lesions, psychiatry, and a highly compressed account of psycho-analytic theory. It is made clear that investigations from the medical side account fairly satisfactorily for human behaviour in its physiological and more mechanistic aspects, but that the spiritual aspects of man are left as unexplained as heretofore. A final chapter by Père Philippe de la Trinité indicates the Catholic solution of the problems that medicine is unable to touch.

"Atlas of Peripheral Nerve Injuries." By W. R. Lyons and B. Woodhall. 1949. London and Philadelphia. W. B. Saunders Company. Pp. 339. Price 80s.

As a result of experience gained during the war the literature concerning peripheral nerve injuries has been, and will yet be, enhanced by several books published in this country and in the U.S.A. Few if any of these will be more lavishly produced than this atlas. The authors obtained their material from patients treated in two large American army hospitals that dealt with cases of peripheral nerve injury. In over three hundred beautiful plates, several in colour, they demonstrate the gross and macroscopic pathology of every type of traumatic nerve lesion. Each figure, and there are five or six figures to each plate, has an excellent and detailed legend, and in some cases a short clinical résumé and concluding comment are also provided. In this respect the title of the book is perhaps not sufficiently descriptive; it is essentially a pathological atlas, and although there are a few illustrations depicting limbs with injured peripheral nerves, anyone who is looking for guidance regarding the clinical effects of nerve injury will consult the book in vain. The text is of secondary importance to the photographs, but is nevertheless well written. The sections on traction lesions, associated nerve and vascular lesions, disrupted suture sites, and nerve grafts

are particularly interesting. American experience supports the view held by many in this country that the results of immediate nerve suture are almost invariably poor. Similarly the descriptions of the state of unsuccessful nerve grafts that were removed after a suitable interval for clinical recovery had elapsed are no more encouraging than those which have been published on this side of the Atlantic. The atlas will not have a wide appeal, but those interested in peripheral nerve injuries and especially neuropathologists will find it a source of much useful information. It should also be of great help to the general pathologist who is occasionally called upon to deal with material from nerve injury cases. The authors are commendably dogmatic regarding what they consider to be good and bad features from the point of view of prognosis in apposed nerve faces and resected segments. An extensive and accurate bibliography adds to the value of the atlas as a work of reference.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

- The Sherrington Lectures. I: "Sensory Integration."** By E. D. Adrian. 1949. University Press of Liverpool. Pp. 20. Price 1s.
- Functional Localization in the Frontal Lobes and Cerebellum.** By John F. Fulton. 1949. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. Pp. xiii+140. Price 15s.
- Acute Injuries of the Head.** By G. F. Rowbotham. With a foreword by Prof. Norman M. Dott.
- Rehabilitation of the Handicapped.** Edited by W. H. Sodden, with a foreword by S. Licht. New York: Ronald Press Co. Pp. xiii+399. Price \$5.00.
- Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom.** Vol. LXVII, Session 1947. 1948. London: J. and A. Churchill. Pp. lx+530, illustrated. No price given.
- Brain and Behaviour.** N. E. Ischlondsky. 1949. London: Henry Kimpton. Pp. xv+182. Price 21s.
- Case Studies in the Psychopathology of Crime.** B. Karpman. 1948. Washington: Medical Science Press. Vol. III, pp. xxxv+834. Vol. IV, pp. xxxv+875.
- Psychological Aspects of Clinical Medicine.** By Stephen Barton Hall. 1949. London: H. K. Lewis. Pp. xi+416. Price 21s.
- The Mental and Physical Effects of Pain.** By V. C. Medvei. 1949. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. Pp. 59. Price 3s.
- A Miniature Textbook of Feeble-mindedness.** By Leo Kanner. 1949. New York: Child Care Publications. Pp. 33. Price \$1.25.
- The Mental Life of the Child.** By Gustav Hans Graber. 1949. London: Staples Press. Pp. 158. Price 8s. 6d.
- Modern Discoveries in Medical Psychology.** Second edit. By Clifford Allen. 1949. London: Macmillan. Pp. xi+140. Price 15s.
- Psychological Statistics.** By Quinn McNemar. 1949. New York: John Wiley. London: Chapman and Hall. Pp. 364. Price \$4.50. or 27s.
- Psychosomatic Medicine.** Second edit. By Edward Weiss and O. Spurgeon English. 1949. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. Pp. xxx+803. Price 47s. 6d.
- A Psychiatrist looks at Tuberculosis.** By Eric Wittkower. 1949. London: National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. Pp. 152. Price 12s. 6d.
- Masochism in Modern Man.** By Theodor Reize. Trans. by Margaret H. Beigel and Gertrud M. Kurtz. 1949. New York: Farrar, Straus. Pp. vi+439. Price \$6.00 or 25s.
- Human Personality and its Minor Disorders.** By W. Harrowes. 1949: E. and S. Livingstone. Pp. 266. Price 15s.
- Über Zwischenhirnsyndrome.** By F. Laubenthal. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. 58. Price DM.3.60.
- Die Insulin Lipodystrophie.** By Ferdinand Adalbert Kehrer. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. 50. Price DM.4.50.
- Der Arzt der Persönlichkeit.** By Ernst Speer. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. 290. Price DM.26.00.
- Medizin in Bewegung: Klinische Erkenntnisse und ärztliche Aufgabe.** By Richard Siebeck. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. xx+520. Price DM.27.00.
- Klinische Psychologie.** Second edit. By W. Hellpach. With supplements: "Klinische Psychologie des Kindesalters" by B. de Rudder, and "Klinische Möglichkeiten experimentelles Psychodiagnostik" by W. Witte. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. viii+724. Price DM. 16.50.
- Untersuchungen über den Lumbalen und Cervikalen Wirbelbandscheiben=vorfall.** By F. Reischauer. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. 87. Price DM. 9.60.
- Leitfaden der Neurologie und Psychiatrie.** By Wolfgang Kurth. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. xvi+305. Price DM. 22.00.
- Lehrbuch der Psychiatrie.** Eighth edit. By Eugen Bleuler. Revised by Manfred Bleuler in collaboration with others. 1949. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. Pp. xx+506. Price DM. 26.00. Linen-bound, DM. 29.60.
- Einführung in die Neurologie.** By Oskar Gagel. 1949. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. Pp. vii+391. Price DM. 30.60.
- Psychotherapeutische Studien.** By Ernst Kretschmer. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. 214. Price DM. 13.50.
- Ein Querschnitt durch die Arbeit der Tübinger Nerven-Klinik.** Presentation volume to Ernst Kretschmer, his pupils and collaborators. 1949. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. Pp. 420. Price DM. 36.00.
- Von der Angst der Kranken.** By Karl Scheele. 1949. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Pp. 76. Price DM. 4.80.
- La Cataplessoterapia dell'Accesso di Tachicardia Parossistica.** By Onofrio Giovenco. 1949. Genova-Nervi: Stab. Grafico Carto tecnico. Pp. 22. Price L.150.
- Précis d'Anatomo-Physiologie Normale et Pathologique du Système Nerveux Central.** Published under the patronage of Jean Lhermitte by Peire Masquin and J. O. Trelles. Third edit. Paris: G. Doin et Co. Pp. 494. Price 2.500 fr.

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