pathological processes. The question is discussed whether these characteristics are merely exaggerations of those existing before the onset of illness, or are results of disease processes. (H. de P.)

Cerebral and Psychopathological Symptoms in Industrial Poisoning.—Results of poisoning by mercury and lead are described in detail and by manganese and thallium more briefly. Severe cerebral symptoms are more common with lead than mercury. Differential diagnosis between metallic poisons, endogenous psychoses, and organic diseases of the nervous system is discussed. (H. de P.)

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE HYPOTHALAMUS AND CENTRAL LEVELS OF AUTONOMIC FUNCTIONS


It is indeed difficult to give a critical review of a volume to which many authors have subscribed. There is no doubt, however, that the general level is extremely high.

Following a précis in which standardization of anatomical nomenclature is aimed at—an excellent proposition—eight chapters are given over to the anatomy of this region of the brain. An excellent review of the work indicative of the presence of secretory cells is to be found in Chapter IV, and this is followed by an equally informative one dealing with the connections of the primate thalamus. The work on the vascular bed of the hypothalamus is of considerable interest.

Chapters X to XXV are given over to the study of the physiology of the hypothalamus. All are of a high standard. There is much that is new in these chapters and all neurologists would be well advised to study them with care.

The remaining nine chapters are classified under the title “Clinical Symposium.” Several of these chapters, however, deal essentially with the pathological changes found in this region of the central nervous system. The attention of readers is drawn to the chapters on disturbances of temperature regulation in man following lesions of the hypothalamus, and to the most interesting work of White, who records the results of stimulating this region of the brain, upon cardiac rate, blood pressure and state of consciousness.

The excellent printing, illustrations and complete bibliography make this volume of the greatest value to all neurologists. Nothing but the highest praise is to be given for this most valuable contribution to our knowledge of the hypothalamus and no library of a neurologist would be complete without it.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

W. Russell Brain


This is a book which will be welcomed by the student, for in fairly compact form is to be found most of the important information regarding diseases of the nervous system. The specialist, however, may well wish to differ from the author’s opinion as expressed in many places. The X-ray photographs are unsatisfactory and it is hoped that in the next edition better paper for their reproduction may be available. The index is very complete. This second edition is a worthy successor to the first.
BOOK REVIEWS

PSYCHOBIOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY

Wendell Muncie

(Henry Kimpton. 1939. Pp. 739. 40s.)

This is a text-book. Like all text-books it contains nothing that is new, but here the likeness ends, for every student of psychiatry should read it and add it to his shelves. It was written at the invitation of Dr. Adolf Meyer and gives an account of the conceptions, teaching, and working methods of the Henry Phipps Clinic.

It is divided into four parts, and it is a pity that, like Gaul, it was not content with three, for the fourth is a "historical survey in bibliography of the development of the concepts underlying the principal reaction sets" in tabloid form, too abbreviated to be of value to those who do not know the works quoted from, and irritating beyond measure to read.

Part I is devoted to the psychobiology and methods of study of the healthy individual. The statements made are supported by synopses of experimental work, physiological and psychological. In Part II, Dr. Muncie states the method of examining patients and, with the help of case reports and life charts, describes the various reaction types. The psychoses are more fully and more competently described than are the neuroses. Part III contains a comprehensive account, without too much detail, of treatment. The technique, dangers and limitations of the convulsant methods are assessed.

PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

William Brown


This book by an eclectic psychologist contains in addition to an account of the Freudian dogma and the chief deviations from it, an interesting account of the author's experience in treating the psychoneuroses of war, of which he had considerable experience. The method which he advocates in early cases is light hypnosis and re-living of the emotional experiences which precipitated the appearance of symptoms. He claims that this method, combined in some cases with physiotherapy, was of great value in restoring the patients to duty. There is a stimulating chapter on the psychology of peace and war, and one on psychical research, a subject not usually dealt with in books of this type. The book is pleasant reading.

COMPENDIUM OF REGIONAL DIAGNOSIS IN LESIONS OF THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD

Robert Bing

(Translated by Webb Haymaker)


This book gives a useful account of the symptoms and signs which are to be expected in lesions at the various levels of the nervous system. It is copiously illustrated with diagrams which correlate the anatomy with the clinical syndromes. One wishes that the localization of lesions in the brain and spinal cord was as easy as the diagrams in the book indicate. The translation is good, and the fact that eleven editions have been needed in the thirty years since the book was first published testifies to its usefulness.
BOOK REVIEWS

THE SEXUAL PERVERSIONS AND ABNORMALITIES

Clifford Allen

(Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, London. 1940. Pp. 193. 7s. 6d.)

In a small compact volume of just under two hundred pages Dr. Allen deals briefly but efficiently with those aspects of human sexual behaviour which are usually regarded as pathological and anti-social. The book is a pioneer work and is the first of its kind to be published in this country. Treatment of the subject is mainly from the psycho-analytical standpoint and the volume contains little of interest to the neurologist as such. The various chapters cover a wide field. The first three are chiefly biological in content. In the fourth a much needed attempt is made to arrive at a satisfactory classification of the various perversions discussed in subsequent chapters. The last chapter is stimulating and is probably the most interesting because it treats of sexual abnormality in relation to its social background. In the past perversion has received scant treatment from the medical profession in this country, but it may now prove to be a subject of profound importance in the near future. For example, an increasing high percentage of male and female homosexuals in a population that will soon decline rapidly presents a problem which is not only a question of medical treatment but one which embraces the position of homosexuals as non-producers of children in society which will depend upon a high birth-rate as a final condition of survival. It would be impossible in such a small space to join issue with Dr. Allen on such questions or on the various points which arise as a result of the treatment of sexual abnormality from the psycho-analytical point of view. These questions, however, only concern the specialist, and the book can be warmly recommended to the senior medical student and to the general practitioner who wants a brief but lucid account of sexual perversion as he may encounter it.

A TEXT-BOOK OF PSYCHIATRY FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS

D. K. Henderson and R. D. Gillespie

(Oxford University Press, London. 1940. Pp. 660. 20s.)

The authors of this excellent and well-established text-book have made changes and additions to keep it abreast of the times. The chapter on psychopathic states has been rewritten in accordance with the sound views put forward by the senior author in his Salmon Lectures. Insulin and cardiazol treatment receive due attention, and there are many other indications of revision. The least satisfactory feature of the book remains its bibliographic references; often a fact is communicated on the authority of some writer whose name is given without any further hint as to where the original article is to be found. Thus on p. 515 the reader is told that "A. Gordon has recently described six cases" in which an obsessional disorder became overtly psychotic; but is offered no further help towards tracing this paper, which was, in fact, published in the American Journal of Psychiatry in 1926. The selection of articles to which special attention is drawn is sometimes parochial.

The useful chapter on occupational therapy might well be expanded in the next edition, which is sure to be called for. The chapter on "Psychoses and Psychoneuroses of War" has lived to justify its retention.
BOOK REVIEWS

MODERN TREATMENT IN GENERAL PRACTICE. YEARBOOK, 1940
Edited by Cecil P. G. Wakeley
(The Medical Press and Circular. 1940. Pp. 312. 12s. 6d.)

This book has attained the object, in giving an account of diagnosis and treatment in a number of important conditions with the minimum of words, which it claims. This minimum of words, however, has caused its value to be less than it might have been had a lesser number of subjects been dealt with and the space saved thereby been devoted to fuller descriptions of diagnostic procedure: e.g. in an article on backache, knowledge of the Smith-Petersen routine of back examination is assumed, and although the reference to the technique is given, practitioners may find difficulty in obtaining the account. Articles on treatment of burns and tetanus under war conditions are particularly acceptable at this time.

The book will prove of considerable value to the general practitioner, not merely in problems which he has to deal with alone but also in gaining an appreciation of modern hospital routine.

A MANUAL OF HISTOLOGIC TECHNIQUE
Oscar A. Turner
(Henry Kimpton, London. 1940. Pp. 73. 10s. 6d.)

This little manual is written for technicians and students working in a general pathological laboratory where formalin fixation of tissue is routine. The presentation is simple and well organized. By following the general plan of the book a rather complete histological survey of the central nervous system is possible. Many of the technical methods, particularly the metallic ones, have vagaries and uncertainties with optimum conditions of fixation. The author takes cognizance of this and has avoided extreme simplification by including brief accounts of methods from which the modifications necessary after formalin fixation have been derived. The well-chosen bibliography makes it possible for the serious worker to go to source material. There are several excellent and more complete manuals which have been published in the past few years than this one. Also older books on general histological technique in their revised editions include the newer advances in neurohistological technique. Turner's manual might be compared to the manuals of the various hospitals for use of their resident staffs. It is splendid for ready reference and points the way to other methods.