on the problem than the other methods which have been used in the past.

The book is divided into four chapters, the first on technique, the second on the physiology of the fluid, the third on various special methods for the diagnosis of tumours of the brain and spinal cord, and the last, which is also the shortest, on the changes in the fluid encountered in various diseases. This last chapter might well have been greatly amplified, and is the least satisfactory part of the book, which is otherwise excellent. But the author’s plea of giving the reader a clear knowledge of diagnostic methods and physiological principles, and leaving him to make his own deductions therefrom, is rather to be applauded than condemned.

J. G. G.


This instructive and readable monograph is concerned with the content of the general paralytic’s mind at various stages of the affection and as revealed during acute and chronic periods or in the course of mild or severe phases. It deals with the clinical material from a dynamic viewpoint and is descriptive and analytic rather than pathogenic in its character; knowledge has not advanced sufficiently to render association of psychopathological features with encephalitic substrata practicable. Besides, this would entail recognition of the all-important principle that destruction of cortical elements will never account for positive manifestations such as megalomania, and to this principle we find no definite allusion in the book.

The author deals successively with the interference produced in mental activity due to disorder of ‘impulse to thought,’ of both intrinsic and extrinsic origin, that due to disorder in conception, to failure of insight and absence of correction, and also such as are occasioned by the latter and result in the ‘breaking through’ of primitive experiences of an infantile or child-like kind. Combinations of the dementing process with derangements of other nature—melancholia, confabulation, hallucinosis, etc.—are subjected to detailed examination. From a psychoanalytic angle dementia paralytica is held to be a narcissistic disorder, linked on the one hand to a castration complex and on the other to consciousness of syphilitic infection.


Professor Jaensch’s work is of a novel character and as such merits consideration and understanding ere comment of a critical kind is passed thereon; in
fact, it deserves repetition on a wide scale, for if the claims made for it should be substantiated it may throw much light on the psychophysical constitution of the individual and hence on the cognate question of the existence of psychological types. Briefly, the statement is that optical perceptual images—eidetic images—are phenomena occupying an intermediate position between sensations and images proper. They are always seen in a literal sense, and may be regarded as modified after-images; but when the influence of the imagination is at its maximum they are in reality ideas which are projected outwards and actually seen. The somewhat intensified after-image and the pure memory image, projected and visible, constitute the limits of the range within which eidetic images lie. It is next argued that variations depend on the psychophysical 'make-up' of the person investigated, that types can be distinguished, and that relationships can be established between these and the calcium metabolism of the individual. Such types are held to be normal for youth, but in exaggerated form they pass into the pathological; for instance, the author's normal 'B-type' would appear to pass into the constitutional disturbance which we know as hyperthyroidism.


In a volume of moderate dimensions Professor Bühler has summarized a larger work of his dealing with the same subject, of which five editions have already appeared in the original German; the book under review is an English rendering of the fifth. Its purpose is to provide the reader with a sketch of the child's mental development as it is conceived in accordance with present-day psychological theory yet based on objective observation. He is taken successively through the stages marking the evolution of language, perception, memory, and imagination; attention is also devoted to the faculty of drawing, to thinking and the formation of judgments; a study of early social behaviour closes the review. A brief correlation of anatomo-physiological data with the attainment of advancing levels on the mental side has its value, if it serves only to accentuate the gaps in existing knowledge.

Throughout the work the reader comes in contact with a keenly observant mind, dealing sympathetically with the events of childhood and revealing insight into the child's mental activities. On the other hand deductions drawn therefrom may not always commend themselves to the reader, but Professor Bühler is well aware of difficulties inherent in interpretation.

The perennial question of the influence of alcohol on human behaviour is re-examined by Professor Smith in a dispassionate fashion and if his exposition of the matter embodies no particularly novel feature, it is none the less well worth perusal. He has conducted a series of experiments dealing with discrimination, co-ordination, and control after imbibition of alcohol, and reaches the conclusion that with doses of less than 30 c.c. no loss of efficiency can be demonstrated. He believes that the will—'whatever that may be'—can to some extent force the 'damaged' brain to do its bidding, and that it can, in thinking, discriminating, co-ordinating, overcome in some respect the effect of the chemical on the cortex. It is speculatively suggested that one can 'will' with the damaged cells which are unable to carry out the desire of the will, but this view can hardly commend itself to the neurophysiologist. Further experimentation is described relating to the degree of concentration of alcohol in the blood and its effect on behaviour, from which we learn that the drug produces its maximum stimulus before reaching its maximum concentration in the blood, and the observations suggest that the early action of alcohol is mainly a surface effect, cortical cells not becoming involved until concentration has increased sufficiently; when equilibrium within and without the cell is obtained the effect subsides.


The theme of this study is the doctrine of syndromes or symptom-complexes as applicable to psychiatry; nosological entities are discarded in favour of types of reaction, which are classified on an empirical clinical basis. Thus the psychomotor, hallucinatory, paranoid, 'encephalasthenic' and other varieties are described and submitted to analysis, and disorder of certain individual mental functions (flight of ideas, incoherence, absence of spontaneity, Korsakow's amnesic complex, etc.) are similarly investigated. To some extent the author follows Wernicke in differentiating mental symptoms into primary, secondary (psychomotor, psychosensory) and tertiary (intrapsychical) forms, although of the artificiality of the division there can be little doubt. But few who are aware of the general trend of research at present will be found to cavil at his generalisation that in psychiatry 'Krankheitseinheit' is a pure fiction.
Die Schädigungen des Nervensystems durch technische Elektrizität.

Dr. Panse has laid the profession under a debt of gratitude for his valuable contribution to the study of the electric injuries of the nervous system. Those who have some little knowledge of the subject are well aware of the scattered nature of the literature and of the lack of authoritative information no less from a clinical than from a pathological point of view. The gap has been filled to a considerable extent by the timely appearance of this monograph, which deals seriatim with peripheral, spinal, and cerebral cases, with mild or incomplete varieties of electric injury, and with electrocution. A bibliography filling some seven pages is appended for convenient reference.


The opinion, more or less implied in Kraepelinian conceptions, of the essential incurability of dementia praecox has in recent years undergone material revision, and is slowly being replaced by one of greater hopefulness, if not yet perhaps of anything like certainty, as regards the outlook in at least some cases of the affection. At any rate, psychotherapeutic activity has definitely begun to assert itself in connexion with the psychosis. The methods in vogue to-day receive full consideration from Dr. Müller, who seeks to bring them into relationship with problems of constitution, of prepsychotic character, and of typology. We miss, however, allusion to the studies of Loevenhart and others on the pathogenesis of dementia praecox and on its modification through biochemical change, a line of approach which seems distinctly valuable and promises to be fruitful for therapy.


In continuation of his studies on the regulation of the circulation (already reviewed in this Journal, vol. XI p. 92) Professor Hess has written a companion volume on respiration, in which its mechanics are fully discussed, its reflexes, and its regulatory factors—neural, chemical, etc. Considerable attention is devoted to the respiratory centres of the medulla. There is comparatively little in the book to interest the clinician directly, although disorders of the respiratory apparatus have occurred with frequency in recent years as a sequel to epidemic encephalitis, and some of these have been of unusual and peculiar type. In this respect clinical observation has outpaced physiological experiment. A good index and an excellent bibliography are appended.

A new neurological journal has appeared, emanating from the Neurological Institute of New York and distributed gratis to a selected list of those interested in neurology. It promises well, if we are to judge by the contents of the first issue, which include an article on The Meningeal Fibroblastomas, by Dr. Charles Elsberg; on Brain Lipoids as an Index of Brain Development, by Drs. Frederick Tilney and Joshua Rosett; and on The Pathogenesis of Multiple Sclerosis, from the pen of Dr. Richard Brickner. The last-named states that in disseminated sclerosis the blood contains a lipase which does not occur normally; it differs in two respects from normal blood lipase, and is probably the same agent as will produce myelinolysis experimentally in the spinal cords of rats.

We extend a cordial welcome to this newcomer in neurological literature and wish it every success.