Reviews and Notices of Books.


This well known writer endeavours to show that disease in any part of the body, however it may be caused, has in every instance a psychological aspect. The various chapters logically lead up to this conclusion. The fundamental biological concepts necessary for the understanding of such psychological questions are presented at some length. The organism-as-a-whole is first studied from the point of view of its developmental integration and structuralization and then the factors which render it dynamic are pointed out. The thesis is that the unique character of a mental reaction is that it is a total reaction, that the field of psychology is the field of total reactions, and that the field of partial reactions belongs to the domain of physiology. A discussion, mainly biological, undertakes to establish the conception of mind as introjected environment. After dealing with the structure and functions of the psyche—very largely based upon Freudian lines—chapters are devoted to the mental mechanisms found in psychopathology and the psychological factor in disease.

These few pages are pregnant with suggestive and stimulating material and written in Dr. White’s usual lucid and attractive style. No better insight into the basic concepts of medical psychology can be gained than by a careful study of this small work and the author’s previous contribution, The Foundations of Psychiatry.


The growing importance of mental deficiency in various departments of social life and the lack of knowledge on the part of many who have to deal with the problems arising from it, have led the authors to present here the latest achievements in its study and in the underlying underdevelopment of the growing brain. The book, though intended to be popular and addressed partly to the general reader,
will be found to be of great utility to the average medical man who desires to orientate himself on the subject. Mental deficiency problems in their various aspects are simply dealt with and followed by chapters on the evolution of the brain and the making of mind. The different types of defectives are discussed, the relationship of mental deficiency to other forms of illness briefly spoken of, and its social consequences pointed out. A policy for the handling of the problem concludes the volume.

Feeble-mindedness is regarded as largely a recessive Mendelian unit-character. The defect cannot be cured but the condition should be recognized early and no time wasted in trying to fit the defective for that for which he is definitely unfit; he should be placed in an environment where he may lead a useful life within his limitations. It seems futile for the country to spend £93 per annum on the inefficient child and only £12 on the efficient one. Amongst suggested eugenic measures are: control of immigration; more discriminating marriage laws; a quickened national eugenic conscience; sexual segregation; and finally, drastic measures of asexualisation or sterilisation when necessary. The whole subject is dealt with comprehensively and clearly and in such a form that the aim of the book is very adequately fulfilled. Excellent illustrations add to its value.


We can well believe Dr. Millais Culpin when he remarks in his preface that the writing of his book has presented peculiar difficulties. When a subject deals with common ailments whose manifestations are as definite as their etiology and, indeed, nomenclature are indefinite, he who would schematise their description must find himself rather seriously handicapped if he seeks to follow the canons of medical science. Thus the author sees it is essential to write a chapter, and that not one of the shorter, on 'nomenclature, classification, and diagnosis.' Its value in clearing the air is considerable, even if not all clinicians will agree with its conclusions. Of the etiology of the psychoneuroses, it is true, Dr. Culpin appears to be in little doubt; psychoneurosis is 'practically synonymous with a minor psychosis,' and 'neurosis' is a 'physiological disturbance' that can occur in any minor psychosis. The former can only be understood etiologically by holding some view, some theory, of mental processes apart from awareness, and the author announces that the chief advances in this respect have been the direct or indirect result of psychoanalytical discoveries. He devotes much attention to aspects of neurosis (or of psychoneurosis) with which he has made himself particularly familiar, viz. occupational
and industrial types, and this part of the book is informative and illuminating, since it is based on many original observations. Occupational 'cramp' is regarded as a symptom of a psychoneurotic kind comparable to stammers, tremors, and 'functional paralyses.' External physical causes are discarded by Dr. Culpin for psychoneurotic symptoms: miners' nystagmus is a symptom of a psychoneurosis differing in no way from others, and only the recognition of psychopathological principles in handling it will 'bring order into the mass of absurdities and contradictions that make up current views upon the subject.'

The last four chapters of the book are from other pens, and deal respectively with individual and analytical psychology, with the psychopathology of childhood and psychotherapeutic clinics.


Applied psychopathology was bound sooner or later to take within its sphere of activity politics and the politician. Behind various political moves in one country or another at all times, and more especially in the last two decaennia in Europe (and elsewhere, for that matter), thinking minds must have concerned themselves with the personalities of the 'prime movers,' and have asked what manner of men they were and to what extent their political conduct was coloured, influenced, even originated, by motives and factors connected with their individual neural and psychological constitution and experience. Clearly, a study of this kind, if it is to be conducted on scientific lines in the light of contemporary knowledge of personality, demands opportunities that can not always be forthcoming; what is requisite is the lengthy scrutiny of the life-histories of specific individuals. Prof. Lasswell has made a commencement in this deeply interesting book, whose conclusions, in the author's words, are 'highly provisional though potentially significant.' Of the fundamental truth of not a few of his statements many must surely be already convinced: political discussion, instead of solving social difficulties, often complicates them, seeing that 'the discussion by far-flung interests arouses a psychology of conflict which produces obstructive, fictitious, and irrelevant values.' The problem of politics is 'preventive'; it is less to solve conflicts than to prevent them. For many politicians their political policy is symbolic of their own wants, and 'the individual is a poor judge of his own interest.' His adjustment is especially likely to be 'symptomatic rather than healthy.
and reflective.' Political solutions are too often not those that are rationally best but merely such as are emotionally satisfactory.

However tentative the conclusions, as already remarked, the line of approach is bound to become more fruitful if only it can be pursued adequately.


All students of neurology will welcome the appearance, in convenient form, of a series of papers written by Hughlings Jackson between 1861 and 1902, which deal with the subject that was peculiarly his own. Many of these were published in journals long since defunct, and have never perhaps received the serious attention they merit, for this and for other reasons. Probably only a few neurologists to-day have really been familiar with them, and we need not now ask what was their reception with, and influence on, those of a past generation. It suffices that the labour of love of their Editor should be fully appreciated to-day by all who hold Jackson's name in respect and affection, and by those of a new generation who can now go to the fountain head for scientific study of a 'disease' that is just as common as ever it was. New methods of inquiry and of research, of which Jackson was ignorant, cannot possibly discount the immense value of his own work, for the clinical phenomena remain the same.

The book is printed in a clear type, and possesses a long and carefully compiled index. The Editor's preface and introduction are explanatory of the purpose of the volume, which is indispensable to the student of the subject and which is assured of a cordial welcome by an ever widening circle.


The scourge which epidemic encephalitis has become, more particularly as regards its aftermath of mental crippling in perhaps one-third, or more, of all cases that survive the original attack, has long been realised not merely by neurologists but by those who have to deal with the delinquent and the...
'difficult child.' For it is clear from clinical and other records that, more especially in the case of the child, juvenile, and young adult, one of the consequences of epidemic encephalitis is an alteration in personality, so called, changing the individual concerned into a mischievous, unreliable, impulsive, and volatile being, whose conduct sooner or later brings him into conflict with domestic or public authorities.

This aspect of the question was the reason for the institution in England a number of years ago now of a special hospital unit to deal with cases of the kind, which has proved to be useful from both a social and a therapeutic point of view. The present monograph offers the reader a critical survey of experiences in America, in connexion with the University of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Hospital, of an analogous kind. Since December 1924, 48 post-encephalitic children (twelve years old and under) have been segregated in special quarters in the hospital because of 'bad behaviour,' together with a smaller number of apparently identical cases in which, however, no history of previous encephalitis could be obtained.

The authors affirm with conviction that bringing the children under psychiatric guidance, in groups, not merely lessens the damage they were inflicting on society, but also alters for the better the downward direction of their lives. For all the details of the methods employed this useful publication should be consulted; no little part of its value consists in the candour with which after-results are scrutinised, failures being investigated just as much as successes. Perhaps the feature that emerges prominently is the fact that the problems which postencephalitic children present are far from being solved.


The study of apraxia has not perhaps attracted in recent years just as much attention as formerly: at least, it seems rather to have come under a cloud in view of current theories depreciating and deprecating efforts to correlate structure and function in the brain. Nevertheless no one who has had occasion to study clinically the phenomena of apraxia is likely to underestimate their localising value if he has the chance of comparing them with post-mortem findings. It is of much interest to find Dr. Otto Sittig contending firmly for the clinical significance and pathological importance of apraxic phenomena, but it is still more gratifying to note his steady adherence to a physiological as opposed to a psychological study of the subject. He animadverts on the confusion that has arisen by admixture of physiological and psychological terms—a comment applicable also, in full force, to the cognate subject of
aphasia—and seeks throughout to conceive of the derangement on physiological lines.

Appreciation of the historical part played by the researches of Hughlings Jackson in this respect, first pointed out by Wilson in 1908, and tardily acknowledged by Liepmann in 1920, is given by the author, who indeed ranges himself under a Jacksonian standard in endeavouring to apply to the study of apraxia the general Jacksonian rule that movements which are most automatic and least individual are least likely to be affected by cortical disease. Dr. Sittig devotes much attention to apraxia of trunk musculatures, having in the course of the last two years had occasion to observe no less than 17 cases in which it was possible to detect some disorder of this kind. The important relationship of apraxic symptoms to lesions of the corpus callosum and in the distribution of the anterior cerebral artery is well exemplified by a personal case, here reported at considerable length. It is pleasing to find that the author eschews the schematic divisions of the Wernicke school and adopts a more empirical approach to the problem.

The monograph is well illustrated and contains an excellent bibliography.


Dr. Nattrass has written, for general practitioners and students, a compendious yet concise volume dealing with the commoner nervous affections of the day, as seen in private and out-patient practice. An introductory chapter on principles of diagnosis, illustrated by a number of photographs and diagrams, precedes a careful, accurate, and readable account of such everyday nervous maladies as disseminated sclerosis, neurosyphilis, neuritis, cerebral tumour, meningitis, encephalitis, migraine, chorea, and so forth. Considerable attention is paid to epilepsy and cerebral vascular lesions, while symptoms such as vertigo also receive annotation. The book is thoroughly modern in its conceptions and practical in its discussion of questions of treatment. Inter-spersed through the text are brief illustrative accounts of personally observed cases. The author is familiar with current neurological literature, as appears from the various references in foot-notes to papers and books which supply further information on the particular point under examination.

The volume, we believe, will serve a useful purpose. No serious omission has been made, even if the author's decision as to what is common in neurology and what is not may not perhaps coincide with what others might
think. Nor does perusal reveal any particular mistake in fact or misjudgement of theory. To write a book of this kind, indeed, requires qualities of an exceptional nature, for the temptation to go beyond its intended scope must be considerable. We compliment Dr. Nattrass on a meritorious achievement.


This monograph deals in great detail with the subject of paranoia and paraphrenia on a largely empirical and clinical basis. Some 66 cases are investigated and subjected to minute analysis from psychopathological and genealogical aspects alike. The information supplied by the latter study is embodied in a series of tables of no little interest. Much attention is paid to the physical make-up and character of the patients, to semiological forms and to the relation of paranoia to other psychotic types, by way of both comparison and contrast. Atypical varieties also receive consideration. Useful generalisations are reached in respect of prognosis, and there is some discussion of the forensic and hereditary problems furnished by the material examined. Between paranoia and paraphrenia, the latter being considered a definite though distinctly rare entity, differences of a more or less fundamental character are stressed. As a contribution to a somewhat vexed question it is more documentary and statistical than pathogenically illustrative, and contains no novel theory or descriptions; nevertheless the data here subjected to analysis have a good deal of value.


The proceedings of the Sexual Reform Congress held in London under the auspices of the World League for Sexual Reform embody a long series of papers many of which have neither neurological nor psychopathological interest, and among which contributions of very unequal value are included, as may be supposed. Here and there, however, are to be found articles couched in a scientific setting and not cheapened by catch-penny titles or vitiated by patent prejudice. But the problem of sex has so many facets, and touches human activities at so many points, that it is well for different minds, with varying temperaments and outlooks, to deal with its many aspects seriatim, and a congress of this kind provides the opportunity.

The transactions of the first International Congress for applied psychopathology and psychology contain a number of communications which must prove interesting, and some valuable, to those whose line of work lies in these directions. It is impracticable to specify all which commend themselves, though that on 'Massenpsychose und Individuum,' by Prof. Erismann, by Dr. Hitschmann on 'Pathographia and Psychoanalysis,' and on 'Angewandte Psychopathologie und Gegenwartzivilisation' by Prof. Stransky may here be mentioned.


This book, except perhaps for beginners in the subject, does not fulfill expectations. Its psychotherapeutic pronouncements are elementary. Only one case is recorded in detail, and its later progress, which is the more interesting, is described only in general terms. The patient in question was most unusually accessible and self-critical, even for an early case.

The last chapter contains an uncritical summary of various modes of treatment apart from psychotherapy.

Nevertheless, the book fills a definite purpose in encouraging others towards an interest in the extremely difficult problem of the psychotherapy of schizophrenia.


It is always instructive to hear a patient's point of view. We have here a simple and frank account of the experiences of the authoress who was a drug-taker and an inmate of a mental hospital for some months. The history of her varying mental reactions and how she gradually gained insight into the source and meaning of her maladaptations until she made a good recovery, makes interesting reading. Such a record materially helps to remove the ignorant prejudices popularly existing with regard to mental institutions. In her epilogue Miss King renders a warm tribute to the new revelations of psychology and their practical applications to psychiatry. She points out that it is not the mental sickness that we should be ashamed of but the inertia and prejudice which keep us from seeking such remedies.

The basis of this book is that organic disease can not only be influenced but produced by psychological causes, and so can be influenced also by psychotherapy. There is introduced also the philosophising notion of an ‘Es,’ closely allied to the Freudian ‘Id,’ which is held responsible for the production and aggravation of the instances of organic disease mentioned.

Dr. Groddeck is a kindly physician whose ministrations are not only of curative but of euthanasic value, but his book can only be regarded as a popular exposition and not as a serious contribution to science.