
It is good to find collected in a single volume a mass of well-analyzed material, and a carefully compiled record of the experiences of many observers, dealing with the perennial problem of accident, neurosis, and compensation. Dr. Huddleson brings to his task a judicial and unbiased mind, manifesting a keen insight into human nature and a sound appreciation of the unsatisfactory features of that problem for which the medical profession is in no way responsible. He makes it clear how social custom and public opinion have steadily if perhaps unwittingly encouraged the development of traumatic neuroses by their attitude towards the question of responsibility. Recovery from a neurosis has become the business of the employer, in the sense that the injured party can hope to be indemnified by him. Hence arise incentives for the retention of a neurosis. It is remarkable, and of much significance, that the cause of a given neurosis seems rarely if ever to be sought, or admitted, in the action of an intrinsic factor, but invariably of an extrinsic one. The well-known fact that severe somatic injury strongly predisposes again the development of a neurosis has only one meaning, in the case of the industrial worker—he thereby has already become the possessor of a disability that entails compensation.

Some interesting if rather academic discussion bears on the vexed question of the 'organic-functional' antithesis. Many competent authorities in neurology and psychiatry deny its validity altogether, and with reason. Dr. Huddleson's present view seems to be that in the last analysis structure and function cannot be separated, but that a line should be drawn at some supramolecular level; in other words, it comes in between activities of a molecular and of a molar kind—the latter at present may be taken as structural or organic. If this differentiation can be supposed to correspond to the fact that disorder of function is possible without immediate and enduring alterations in structure that are recognizable by the technique of to-day it may serve.
Another aspect of the whole matter that is well brought out is the as yet perhaps rather ill-appreciated fact that in a traumatic neurosis different difficulties lie at different levels. Hence it comes about that superficial disturbances can scarcely be separated from malingering, or indeed may be indistinguishable therefrom. The two often appear interwoven. The author is probably right in claiming that relief by monetary consideration itself tends to bring deeper maladjustments nearer the surface and therefore they become more amenable.

The book has intrinsic merits which should ensure a wide appreciation by all whose practice brings them into contact with the types of case here examined; it is well written and has a comprehensive bibliography.


This atlas of histopathology of the nervous system contains a brief text in English, introductory to more elaborate treatises, and consists mainly of some 200 microphotographs, untouched and beautifully reproduced, which illustrate the more important nervous diseases and also the general microscopic anatomy of the neural tissues in pathological conditions. They are all particularly clear, and each is selected with a view to exemplifying some special point. Those of encephalitis post vaccinationem are excellent in this respect, as are those of subacute combined degeneration (here termed funicular myelitis). Tumours, syringomyelia, and congenital defects do not come under the purview of the authors, who have classified the affections dealt with as follows: (1) those distinguished by progressive changes in the glia; (2) those with infiltration of vessel walls in addition; (3) those resulting from defective blood circulation; (4) those of an involutional kind.

An atlas such as this enables the student to appreciate at a glance the salient features of neuropathology considered in relation to individual nervous diseases, and its study will undoubtedly facilitate the laborious processes of learning.


It must have been a labour of love that has occupied Dr. Atkinson for 20 years; he seems to have traced every record of acromegaly from the earliest to the latest, his tables of analysis comprising the data of no fewer than 1,819 cases. These tables, and the bibliography, account for some 176 pages of his
monograph, leaving less than 100 to cover historical, clinical, and pathological description. This part of the book is well done, entering as it does into minutiae with which not a few professional readers may be unfamiliar. The chapter on pathogenesis is comparatively short, but adequate; it sums up the problem more or less on lines advocated by Cushing, though little attention seems to be paid to the interrelation of pituitary overfunction and sympathetic centres of the diencephalon. The real core of the pathogenic mystery consists in ascertaining the cause of the chromophil hyperplasia. Certain recorded 'negative' cases might have been discussed with advantage.

All neurologists should add the volume to their bookshelves, for it covers the ground exhaustively and is completely documented. It is not, however, illustrated.


Experimental embryology may on first thoughts seem somewhat remote from the fields of neurology and psychopathology; yet workers in both deal with faults of development, nervous or mental, and we are insistently assured that a knowledge of biology is a prerequisite to advance in other branches of scientific study. But few medical men, we may suppose, are aware of recent conclusions derived from modern work in experimental embryology, conclusions dealing mainly with the mechanics of development. These are critically reviewed and annotated in this masterly production, which, highly technical though it is, touches matters of importance to the student of the nervous system at many points. Here will be found evidence summarized in support of the views that, for example, from fertilization arises a new organismal unit or whole, despite its dual origin, and that this fusion is something more than the apposition of two components; that the entire process of development is a function of the germ as a whole, single cells being as it were passively carried along in its current; that the capabilities of various regions of the developing egg are more extensive than their actual performance during embryogenesis. Special interest attaches to the potency of regeneration, areas whose destiny seems fixed and precise being proved capable of a wider functional range. Pluripotent cells appear, through whose agency, under abnormal circumstances, one kind of tissue may be transformed into another—so-called metaplasia. The data of heteromorphosis are also examined; they show convincingly that by regeneration an organ of a different kind than that which has been lost or removed may come into being. These considerations, and others also discussed, lead to the conclusion that
pre-formation does not occur, and Professor Dürken takes a firm stand in opposition to current opinions of chromosome and gene function, which attribute the structures of the adult to actual preformed germinal rudiments. On the contrary, he opposes Weismannian hypotheses by affirming the indeterminateness of germinal development and the indefiniteness of its fate. Evidence is adduced which indicates that the real purpose of development is not the production of parts but the differentiation of a whole. It depends upon the whole germ always, and is in ultimate analysis a process of integration.

Perhaps the chief value of the book (aside from its technical importance) resides in its stimulating suggestiveness to minds not perhaps familiar with its data but aware of their applicability to developmental problems of another order.


The first edition of this textbook of nervous diseases in children appeared some 20 years ago; this edition is for practical purposes a new book. It ranges widely and not too discursively over the field, and in many respects is modern in conception and outlook. On the other hand, its descriptions are in some ways curiously unequal, for while spasmophilia (so-called) is treated at almost inordinate length, the article on meningitis refers to little more than tuberculous, purulent, and epidemic cerebrospinal varieties. The chapter on cerebral tumour will not perhaps appeal to the modernist since its pathological classification leaves much to be desired, terms that are now familiar being not so much as mentioned. The allusions to Schilder’s encephalitis, which sometimes occurs in youthful subjects, and to other comparative rarities, are helpful so far as they go. The scope of the work includes disorders of the ductless glands, also the neuroses and psychoses of children and is therefore comprehensive. The book is well illustrated and clearly printed, but for one of its size references to the literature are rather scanty.


This is a delightfully written book. Its theme is the application of physiology to clinical medicine—not a dry-as-dust physiology remote from clinical reality but one that is alive with notions and practicabilities of interesting kinds.
That its author occupies a distinguished position among the physiological fraternity ensures the accuracy and modernity of his conceptions; but the charm of the work resides in the ease with which he simplifies recondite topics and the skill with which he grasps their essence and turns his knowledge to the advantage of the scientifically-minded clinician. The book ranges over a wide field, and contains much that directly concerns the neurologist and, indeed, the psychopathologist. Professor McDowall condemns the attitude of the 'new psychologist' who ignores all anatomical and physiological data in prosecuting his subject, pointing out that psychological procedures are often based on physiological principles. An ingenious illustration of this is supplied; he believes in the possibility of 'conditioned pain,' i.e. in the formation of 'sensory reflexes' comparable to the conditioned motor reflex, and argues plausibly that the 'cures' effected by Christian scientists, osteopaths, chiropractors and others of the class often consist in nothing else than the alteration of conditioned reflexes of the sensory and not motor series.

The volume is one which we cordially recommend to the attention of all interested in scientific medicine.

An Introduction to Analytical Psychotherapy. By T. A. Ross, M.D., etc., Medical Director of the Cassel Hospital for Functional Nervous Disorders. London: Edward Arnold. 1932. Pp. 208. Price 10s. 6d.

Dr. T. A. Ross deals, out of a rich experience, with the application of psychoanalytic principles to the everyday clinical problems of the psychoneurotic. Avowing himself no disciple of any one psychoanalytic school, yet admitting with candour the indebtedness of all present-day psychotherapists to the genius of Freud, he writes in a pleasantly readable and lucid fashion of the unconscious mind and what is connoted thereby, of transference, sex difficulties, dreams, symptom-formation, and kindred topics. His style is distinguished by apt illustration and his interpretation of clinical phenomena by sound and independent common sense. One chapter is devoted to analysis of a special case, but otherwise he draws on many personal experiences as a psychotherapist for the material to bring his arguments home. Dr. Ross makes no effort to defend the excesses of 'wild psychoanalysts' who sacrifice reasonableness of mind (and shall we say humour?) at the altar of Freudian devotion, and for this not a few will thank him. On the contrary, he is justly critical of such errors of commission; he argues, for example, against the immutability of symbols; he does not fail to emphasize on this or that occasion how little of the symptoms has sexual significance; and, notably, he is persuaded that evasion of conflict in the conscious mind may prove mischievous from the standpoint of neurosis development.
A last chapter is concerned with technique and training. He stresses the importance of good medical knowledge, naturally, yet declares that the psychoneuroses are no more connected with neurology than with any other branch of medicine. As Dr. Ross does not define what he understands by neurology, his allegation loses point; curiously enough he allows the resemblance between hysteria and schizophrenia in varied types and circumstances, hence a training in psychiatry is admitted to have its value. But no professing student of the nervous system in its full and only real meaning will consent to the insinuation that neuroses are not nervous, or believe his daily experience by granting that phenomena of a psychoneurotic kind seldom appear in connexion with 'organic' nervous disease, or as seldom have to be distinguished therefrom.

Études cliniques sur la reaction myodystonique. By E. Melkersson.

The myodystonic reaction, described originally by Söderbergh, has features differentiating it slightly from the myotonic reaction. After tonic contraction on electrical stimulation, and continuing contraction for an appreciable time when excitation ceases, the muscle relaxes, and as it does so it exhibits one or two, or more, momentary recontractions, as it were, which involve the whole muscle. In a second form these brief, clonic, spontaneous recontractions occur though relaxation is not obviously retarded. To the study of this variety of the myotonic reaction the author devotes a monograph of nearly 300 pages. He has observed it in Parkinsonism, Wilson's disease, pseudosclerosis, various extrapyramidal syndromes, spasmotic torticollis, dystrophia myotonica, amytrophic lateral sclerosis, syringomyelia, myxœdema. The question of its significance and localization is discussed at some length; the view is taken that the reaction may be either myogenic or neurogenic but that the evidence undoubtedly favours the latter theory. The post- or re-contractions argue strongly against a myogenic hypothesis.


The starvation treatment of epilepsy has been studied in great detail by Dr. Clemmesen, on the basis of no fewer than 155 cases. His monograph is replete with information of a biochemical and clinical kind, collected in tables and analyzed with care. From the therapeutic standpoint his conclusion is to the effect that the method will in the course of four or five days cause attacks to cease, and that the certainty of the procedure is uninfluenced by the
duration of the epilepsy. Its effect is equally sure whether the fits are organic or cryptogenic—an illuminating commentary on the theories of those who make of ‘genuine’ epilepsy an exclusive category. Starvation works best in those patients who suffer from frequent attacks. From the viewpoint of pathogenesis the author concludes that the beneficent working of the technique is due to the dehydration which it induces.


This monograph supplies full information in respect of the occurrence, in northern Sweden, of 52 cases of oligophrenia among some 34 peasant families, where intermarrying and inbreeding existed to some extent. The subjects were of low mental attainment, unable to read, write, or count. Their level was approximately that of a normal child between three and six years. Dysarthria was often found, agrammatism also; and a slow, unsteady gait. The patients were of pithecod type somatically. The fundi were normal; epilepsy seldom occurred. Brain-puncture (in five cases) showed no abnormality of architectonics in the frontal lobe—the method, however, is of negligible value.

This variety of oligophrenia seems definitely to be of the form of a Mendelian recessive and probably monohybrid.


The authoress of this readable book discusses simply yet shrewdly the problems incidental to the period of growing up, so far as they concern the female sex. Her insight into the mind of girlhood is sympathetic, and her knowledge of the various aspects of these problems is rich and sure. Whether unwittingly or not, the writer seems to have a tendency to overemphasize the extent and degree of these knotty questions; the reader notes how little is said of the normal girl and the normal way in which she meets new situations. This tendency to deepen the shadows is to be deplored, as it may give rise to wrong impressions. Indeed, the authoress (almost at the close of her book) admits that ‘every girl does not suffer from all the troubles which are described’; yet this is somewhat qualified by the statement that ‘her adolescence is the happier for being uneventful, if it be true that it can ever be.’ Were this to be taken literally then there would be an
end of normality. Of course, the purpose is to draw attention to such 'troubles,' otherwise the book becomes pointless. The wise assistance which is offered in a friendly spirit within these pages might well be supplemented by the paying of more attention to self-help.


Dr. Laforgue has written a psychoanalytic study of the neurosis of the French poet Baudelaire. Its theme is that the neurosis does not belong to any so-called classical type but is distinguished by a series of reactions of an asocial kind—the 'need' to shock, to lie, to steal, to be punished, etc. Behind such manifestations is asserted to lurk a masochistic background, and this way of looking at Baudelaire's numerous 'symptoms' is given support by details culled from various sources. The poet was also an alcoholic, drug addict, and neurosyphilitic. It is interesting, as illustrating the standpoint of the author, that the cerebral syphilis from which he died is here alleged to have been the consequence of his neurosis.


The first number of a new quarterly intended to concern itself with human conduct and its laws, with the diagnosis of human behaviour individually or in groups, contains a variety of interesting articles, among which that by C. G. Jung on 'Sigmund Freud in his Historical Setting' will undoubtedly engage most attention. Dr. Jung's reasoned contribution, couched in temperate language, conceives of Freud as a creature of his time, an exponent of the ressentiment of the twentieth against the nineteenth century; he can be understood best as a great destroyer, breaking the chains of the past. His theory 'does not stand for a new way of life, a guiding line of development.' . . . His only interest is where things come from, never where they are going.' Again, 'Freudian theory is at best a partial truth'; were it not so, Adler's entirely different conception 'would have fallen flat and had no effect.' On this side though the latter itself is, its success is not to be denied. Other papers include one by William McDougall on 'The Words Character and Personality,' and by Sandor, of Berlin, on 'Mathematical Prodigies.' Many distinguished names appear in the list of collaborators on the cover. The journal has made a good beginning and promises well.

This new periodical has been established, so it is stated, to 'fill the need for a strictly psychoanalytic organ in America, where, although Freudian analysis has been received more favourably than in any other country, it nevertheless is exposed to the danger of misrepresentation and dilution with ideas foreign to it, both in respect to theory and method.' The journal will be devoted to theoretical, clinical and applied psychoanalysis. The names of those on the Editorial Board and those who will be Contributing Editors are of such repute that we can be assured that the literature will be of a high standard.

In this first number the contents have much of interest. There is a translation of a brief article by Freud on 'Libidinal types'; Brill, of New York, discusses 'The Sense of Smell in the Neuroses and Psychoses'; Bertram D. Lewin gives an account of the analysis and structure of a transient hypomania; Roheim deals at some length with 'Animism and Religion'; and Fenichel, of Berlin, contributes the first instalment of his 'Outline of Clinical Psychoanalysis.' The usual book reviews will be undertaken. We cordially wish our contemporary success.

C. S. R.