bodies and the retina. The third volume indeed almost leaves the subject of cytology aside, to discuss the various forms of tumour, maldevelopment, and inflammatory reaction to which the nervous system is subject; but even in this volume the subject is dealt with largely from the narrower standpoint of cellular structure. Thus the volumes cannot be considered as an exhaustive treatise on neuropathology. Indeed they make no pretence to this. But their value to the neuropathologist is scarcely lessened thereby, as they provide a foundation for his investigations such as has never before been included in one book. Many of the chapters are written by acknowledged authorities and embody their own pioneer work. Continental workers such as Agduhr, Bielschowsky, Boeke, del Rio Hortega, Ariens Kappers, Masson and Nageotte discuss subjects which they have made their own, but many of the articles by American authors are on an equally high plane.

The value of the book is greatly enhanced by the wealth of fine illustrations. To this especially must be attributed the high cost, which we regard as unfortunate, in that this is a book for slow and careful reading rather than for cursory reference in a library. But works on cytology have a permanent value, dealing as they do with carefully observed and well-established facts, and the present work contains so much fresh material that its position is assured for many years to come.

J. G. G.


Dr. R. Mourgue has been occupied for a number of years with problems circling round and arising out of the question of hallucinosis, and this erudite and stimulating book embodies the results of his studies. Convinced that academic psychology will never provide a solution of the nature of hallucinosis, Dr. Mourgue asserts that, in the first place, the latter does not depend on the intensity of the image phenomena, nor on disaggregation of personality in any simple sense; he has found, however, that in abnormal perception (hallucination) much depends on complex motor attitudes, through which objectivity is determined by reference to the body. Normal perception is based on external sensory excitation; hallucination is based on motor attitudes that have to do with projection—it is a 'psychosomatic' phenomenon. Dr. Mourgue then proceeds to argue that true hallucinations originate in disorder of the organo-vegetative side of the personality; this system is the 'base physique de l'esprit.' Along with the organo-vegetative factor goes activity on the part of the corresponding motor mechanisms of sensorial adaptation. Such interpretations of the phenomena, however, are
almost entirely physiological; the author is therefore led to insist also on the significance of the sphere of orientation and causality, which, in his view, is invaded by that of instinct when hallucinations arise. Hallucination depends on activity in the instinctive sphere, which uses for its own purpose the spatial projection apparatus normally serving for orientation in the world of reality.

This is a mere sketch of the general trend of Dr. Mourgue's investigations; the book itself offers a closely reasoned and well sustained argument in favour of these views, and is remarkable for its range of knowledge in presentday research. He touches not merely on anatomical and physiological data, but handles purely philosophical considerations with equal zest. A bibliography of over 1,000 titles indicates the breadth of Dr. Mourgue's acquaintance with the germane literature.


The writer of this attractive little book is imbued with the idea that an 'epileptoid constitution' exists, and can be recognized. He believes that it manifests itself by traits and symptoms such as volatility, instability, bad temper, impulsiveness, sometimes violence, cruelty, nocturnal incontinence, somnambulism, and what not; and then seeks to persuade his readers that such a 'character' is traceable in youthful persons who have never suffered from overt fits. In other words, he is convinced of the genuineness of 'épilepsie sans crise.' A large number of brief clinical case-reports will be found in these pages, whose interest is unquestioned. Nevertheless the impression is left after perusal that too much is assumed, and that the writer is not guiltless of a tendency to petitio principii. For, after all, we are not here vouchsafed a definition of epilepsy, nor are its limits prescribed. Every clinician knows that confirmed epileptics may exhibit 'mental' symptoms; less recognition has been given to the equally well substantiated fact that many persons who suffer from occasional fits do not show such symptoms. Yet numerous authorities appear to be assured of the genuineness of the epileptic 'character' or 'mentality' or 'disposition' or whatever word may be preferred, and go so far as to affirm that fits themselves are of secondary importance from a diagnostic viewpoint. This seems to the reviewer an excellent instance of putting the cart before the horse. The truth is that under the sheltering wing of epileptic 'constitution' has been crowded one of the most heterogeneous collections of mental abnormalities, from religiosity to mythomania, and from brutality to humility, that can be imagined. Thus packed with anomalies, the conception becomes meaningless.

Though this monograph deals with a special aspect of comparative physiology, viz., the problem of chromatophoric activity in lowly species, it has implications of great importance for neurology in general. Professor Parker first shows that chromatophores are influenced by neural action in some animals, by humoral in others. Colour cells are responsive both to neural stimuli and to adrenalin, pituitrin, and other substances of a humoral class; that is, the cells have a dual control. He next observes that nervous operations excite secretory processes and theorises on the possibility that nervous tissue itself is endowed with secretory function. Evidence is advanced which goes to prove that some secretions appear to come from the nerve-terminals of sympathetic fibres, that some or other substance in the nature of a hormone may be given out by fibrils—e.g., in the case of taste-buds. Thus the question comes to be one of distinction between normal (sensory) nerve impulse and trophic influence passing over the same nerve-fibre to keep its sense-cells intact; the latter must pass in a reverse stream from centre to periphery. The suggestion is made that herpes zoster supplies an instance in support of the neurohumoral principle; the inflamed skin over the segmental distribution may be due to abnormal secretions from the nerve-terminals of the skin secondary to the deeper (ganglionie) nerve disturbance. Finally, the notion is used to account for irreversibility at synapses; facts are adduced in support of the view that it has a secretory and a receptive side, and that these are structurally different. Professor Parker concludes that the principle is a special application of Bayliss and Starling's concept of hormones, though the distance between origin and point of application of the substance may be microscopical.


The second volume of Hughlings Jackson's contributions to neurological science includes a number of papers dealing with one of his favourite topics, viz., evolution and dissolution in the nervous system, with aphasia, and also sundry addresses and lectures. The editor has selected with care and exercised a wise judgement; among the miscellaneous articles are several which reveal Jackson's mind at least as effectively and characteristically as some that are much more ambitious. His little jeu d'esprit on the Psychology of Joking is as delightful in conception as it is informative in its application to 'more serious' matters. His brief remarks on non-protrusion of the tongue in some cases of aphasia contain in essence the idea
of the doctrine of apraxia as known today. The first Hughlings Jackson Lecture, delivered by himself in 1897, is remarkable in more than one respect for its modern outlook as regards epilepsy. It is an intellectual treat to peruse these diversified pages at leisure, and, for those who knew the man, to recapture some echoes of his voice, some of his charm, and to be impressed again by his wonderful insight into the heart of the problems that attracted him. Those who did not known him will not fail to appreciate the quality of the legacy he has left and to profit by study of its richness.


Extremely technical though this little book is, it is equally fascinating; its distinguished author begins in the shallows and leads the reader into ever deeper waters in such a manner that the latter hardly realizes when he is out of his depth. The 'messages' of nerve-currents passing along nerves cannot be discrete packets of any actual substance. Nor is there any evidence that the nerve impulse is a special form of energy. There is no such special thing as 'nervous energy,' despite the frequency with which the term is employed. The nerve impulse is an event. It is transmitted along a protoplasmic thread like an electric cable with conducting core and insulating cover. With it goes an electric change that seems to be a universal accompaniment; this change can be used as a sign of the presence of the impulse and as a measure of its size. In addition, heat formation, oxygen consumption, and carbon dioxide production occur at the same time. The magnitude of the impulse cannot be varied ('all-or-none' principle); and its passage is followed by a refractory period; as Prof. Hill says, 'a gun has been fired—nothing can happen till it is reloaded.' The different fibres of a given nerve-trunk have different diameters, and the velocities with which impulses travel are proportional to these diameters.

According to the author, the problem of impulse transmission is precisely that of electrical excitation; a nerve fibre is to be regarded as a cylindrical condenser. He then proceeds to examine in detail the analogies and the differences. When currents flow, ions must move. The phase of recovery can be likened to a secretary process, which 'forces back to their place ions which have escaped during activity, ions whose diffusion has caused the electric currents which we observed.' Recharging and secretion are comparable. How this secretion is done, 'nobody knows, and nobody is likely to know for some little time.' Yet something of the kind must occur, for when the resting potential of nerve is diminished by stimulation (with its consumption of oxygen), rest in oxygen raises it again.

Prof. Ewald in his preface explains the purpose of his monograph. He thinks it time the psychiatrist should again turn to examination of the somatic components in personality structure. Not that he wishes to break a lance on behalf of the 'old materialistic soul'; but since we can only know the mind as it exists in connexion with and relation to the body he considers psychical processes, normal and abnormal alike, should be envisaged also from the standpoint of body structure. In this there is, needless to say, nothing new, but it serves a useful purpose to investigate afresh the biological side of temperament and character. This is done in a series of pleasantly written chapters, the views of several contemporary theorists being discussed and the 'make-up' of hysteroïd, schizoid, and 'demonic' types being examined. One is devoted to individual psychology, another to the place occupied in character-formation by the sexual impulse, as conceived by Freud. Prof. Ewald considers Freudian doctrine makes but a minor contribution to characterology, being of more value for psychopathology. From Freud little is to be learned of normal character structure. 'Like a colour-filter, which only allows red rays to pass,' so Freudian concepts never convey the idea of the personality as a whole, but only of one of its aspects. Necessary and desirable though this has been, Freud 'filters only the sexual through,' and deals with it alone; thus his conception of personality is forced.


Professor Daniepolou of Bucarest is the author of this comprehensive treatise on the sympathetic nervous system. Its first volume is devoted to normal anatomy and physiology, the second to clinical examination, pathology, and medico-surgical treatment. Well illustrated with original diagrams, many of which are coloured, it is particularly detailed on the physiological side. Three fundamental principles are enunciated in this regard, viz., the amphotropism of sympathetic tonus, predominance of amphotropic factors on one or other group (sympathetic or parasympathetic), and circular amphotropic mechanism of tonus and excitability. These notions are applied to the clinical investigation of sympathetic disorder in an ingenious fashion. Attention is also engaged by a series of syndromes in which sympathetic disturbance is manifest (asthma, angina, hypertension, tabetic crises, and many others). The book is based on personal experience and research, and represents a high level of attainment; but there are no references to the work of others, although their names are occasionally quoted.
Report of the Departmental Committee on Persistent Offenders.

Of the eight persons constituting the above-mentioned Departmental Committee only one was a member of the medical profession. They have sifted with care an immense amount of evidence derived from heterogeneous sources, part of which interests the neurologist and psychopathologist. Various witnesses testified to the importance of mental examination of persistent offenders, juvenile or adult, and some averred that their criminal habits could be cured by appropriate psychological treatment. They alleged that punitive treatment is as little helpful as it would be for a sufferer from any recognized medical disease. Such statements are based on the assumption that many crimes are merely symptoms of mental disorder. It is of value, therefore, to possess the Committee's conclusions, couched in temperate language, and certainly not biased one way or the other.

In the first place, they do not agree with the view that crime is a disease, or that it is generally the result of mental disorder. They think, however, that a certain amount of persistent crime is due to abnormal mental factors, and that certain delinquents may be amenable to psychological treatment; yet, accepting the psychological explanation in certain circumstances, they do not regard it as of necessity an excuse for the offence. The Committee believes that some reduction in the amount of certain forms of persistent crime might be brought about if more use were made of chances of examination of various offenders at reputable clinics. They are unwilling to express any definite opinion as to the relative value of psychological treatment prior to, or during the currency of, imprisonment.

With a final conclusion we find ourselves in cordial agreement; it deserves to be quoted verbatim:—'We should be on our guard lest words are substituted for facts until the efficacy of treatment is based on scientific data. Meanwhile, we consider that action along these lines would determine whether the psychological treatment of delinquency is of sufficient value to justify statutory recognition as a means for the prevention and treatment of certain crimes.'


Dr. Landman's book contains no propaganda; it presents a dispassionate and scholarly discussion of the question of sterilization, based on experience in the United States. At the time of writing, the author finds that 27 States of the Union have passed legislation bearing on the matter, and that some 12,000 persons have already been sterilized. With his general
attitude all medical scientists must agree, that the crux of the problem is the question of defective inheritance, and that what is sorely needed is more data and less speculation. His study is particularly well documented; all the known facts are collected and analyzed; the results of sterilization, so far as available, are here marshalled and made to run the gauntlet of criticism. Since biologists and eugenists are still very much in the dark as regards transmissibility of characters it is, to say the least, premature to regard the problems as solved; but without this solution, the procedure becomes crassly empirical. Dr. Landman shows that many mental incompetents, who have been submitted to the operation (whichever one is chosen) have none the less to be returned to institutional life; if they need such care, why sterilize them? He also shows that some inmates respond to treatment and eventually become stable and well-conducted. If they can be thus discharged, why sterilize them?

Publicists whose knowledge of the subject is too often amateur might with advantage read the evidence so clearly and concisely set forth in this volume.


The major part of this well compiled monograph deals exhaustively with the sequelæ of epidemic encephalitis and ranges over an enormous field, from amyotrophy to psychosis, from Parkinsonism to arthropathy. All the numerous sections and subsections are provided with bibliographical references which will prove of value to anyone studying the subject further. Brief chapters on etiology, diagnosis and treatment are included. The tone of the book, as befits its purpose, is descriptive rather than critical or interpretative, although on various matters in dispute the writers express an opinion of a constructive kind. It is an erudite production which we cordially recommend to the notice of our readers.


Prof. Hoche has written a thoughtful and informative essay on the sense of right, the feeling of justice and injustice, exemplifying the shades of meaning attached thereto. He gives an entertaining account of how one’s sense of what is just or right may be trampled on in a railway carriage, at a hotel, a concert. His illustrations, indeed, are peculiarly apt; another cameo
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depicts the injustice of unequal division of food at the nursery table and how it is received; still another is based on l'affaire Dreyfus as an instance of outrage to this sense or feeling. Prof. Hoche shows that in abnormal circumstances the same feeling bears on the development of martyrdom, of resignation, and how it is well to the fore in the class of querulants. That the feeling is engrained in mankind is affirmed, yet not so deeply or so universally as could be wished—nothing like it, perhaps; it is but the first and most delicate bud, as he says, the harbinger of a summer when no one will be compelled to do this or leave that, but everything will be done for the common good not by compulsion but of choice. A Utopian dream, no doubt, yet possibly not without significance.


This slender brochure contains a very complete and succinct description of all the newer methods of treatment of general paralysis in vogue today; half is devoted to the details of 'pyretotherapy' and chemiotherapy, the rest of the book to results, recommendations, criticisms, prophylaxis and symptomatic treatment. In convenient form with numerous references, the reader will find here all that is necessary for guidance from the standpoint of practice.


Dr. Higier's study of the sexual functions of the male and their disorders is intended to serve merely as an introduction to a further and more elaborate investigation of impotence; as it is, however, it deals with the subject from the standpoint of physiology and endocrinology at least as much as from that of psychology, for which he is to be congratulated. These aspects of an important clinical syndrome have been badly neglected of late, since the permeation of current thought by Freudian conceptions has too often circumscribed research instead of widening it. At one end of the scale of impotence come cases where loss of sexual power depends on disease of the spinal cord, roots, or nerves; at the other, the subjects of phobia, hypochondria and one or other psychoneurosis, neurosis, or psychosis, in whom the symptom or syndrome is doubtless psychogenic. But between these, as Dr. Higier is careful to point out, is a large number of cases in which the origin of the symptoms in disorder of vago-sympathetic or endocrine mechanisms seems clear. To these much attention is devoted. The book is eminently practical, well written, and possesses that rarity of French medical literature, an index.

Following lines of study already investigated by his maitre, Prof. B. Brouwer, Dr. Meyjes has devoted his thesis to the question whether there is any topical connexion between the internal (median) geniculate body and the temporal (auditory) cortex, and whether any corticifugal system exists from the latter to the former—i.e. whether there are efferent fibres in an afferent system, as has been shown to be the case in respect of the visual system. The answer to the first problem is that geniculo-cortical relationships are diffuse rather than precise; there does not appear to be in the internal geniculate that subdivision of ganglion-cells which characterizes the external. On the other hand, however, a well marked efferent tract can be seen to pass from the temporal lobe (auditory cortex) to the internal geniculate. Dr. Meyjes properly attaches much significance to this path, suggesting that its physiological influence is exerted on the lower sense station by way of a possible combined excitation and inhibition; those parts which are placed in the centre of observation become more susceptible to stimuli, others less; in a sense, therefore, the system is one for focussing attention. Dr. Meyjes' work is bound to prove fruitful as a contribution to a subject that will attract increasing notice.


For clinical and pathological experience of typhus English neurology has to depend today on that of foreign observers in countries in which the disease is still rife. This monograph from Moscow presents a complete picture of the nervous aspects of the fever, which are extraordinarily wide-ranging. We are informed that the symptom-complexes include myositis and neuritis on the one hand, and psychoses on the other. Spinal, bulbar, cerebellar, pyramidal and extrapyramidal syndromes are all met with—in a word, any whose basis in an encephalo-myelo-neuritis can be assumed. On the pathological side full descriptions are given of the histology of the well-known lesions, unspecific though they have been shown to be. The bibliography contains nearly three hundred titles.


The seventh edition of this well known and popular textbook has been revised with the introduction of new matter in the chapters on anatomy and physiology, in an account of postural reflexes and in the discussions of
intracranial tumours and disorders of sleep. It will continue to fill a want which is supplied by no other book in the English language. It is a pity, however, that certain theories are given prominence as though they were really proved explanations, e.g. the sympathetic innervation of striated muscle. Exception too may be taken to such a dogmatic statement as that optic atrophy does not occur in Friedreich’s ataxia. As in previous editions the book is lavishly illustrated and there is a good index, both features which add to its value.


This monograph provides the reader not only with a complete mise-au-point of the present position of the catatonia problem but also supplies many valuable data of personal experimentation in connexion therewith. The authors have employed monkeys and cats, and come inter alia to the following conclusions.

The cataleptic phenomena producible by bulbocapnine include loss of motor initiative, maintenance of passively impressed postures, maintenance of posture against gravity, resistance to passive movements, and variations of muscle tonus. This bulbocapnine catalepsy can be induced in cats and monkeys from which part or the whole of the cortex has been removed. These facts of experimentation confute the claims of those who believe that the cortex is essential for the manifestations.

It is significant to note that the authors affirm that this experimental catalepsy is not identical with the catatonia of human cases—it represents only its motor component, and does not embody any psychical component. Whether this conclusion is just is, we consider, open to discussion. In the psychoses catatonia is declared to be psychologically determined; in the ape, the clinical phenomena are exactly the same except for evidence of psychical participation. It is legitimate to argue that one and the same mechanism is activated in different ways in the two conditions, just as the plantar response may be absent when the foot is cold, under certain abnormal spinal cord states, and in hysteria.


The medical man will not learn anything new from this book, but none the less it is interesting in respect of the different point of view which a Bolshevist protagonist must hold when compared with an exponent of western thought.

The book is written on the theme that a woman is a human animal who menstruates once a month and may bring forth once a year.
According to the Soviet régime it is axiomatic that woman stands on an absolutely equal footing with man, but the author points out in a popular but clear and accurate description of sexual physiology in the female from birth through puberty, menstrual function, pregnancy, lactation and the menopause, that she cannot compete on terms of real equality. Naturally he is an upholder of birth control, but thinks that the future lies with antispermic sera rather than with the methods at present in vogue. He protests, however, that sexuality must be controlled since it can be and is sublimated into all varieties of culture and art. He mentions that it is sometimes diverted into religious channels but alleges that this is always pathological.

He proposes the following as the 'new ethic of sexuality,' which, it must be confessed, bears a distinct resemblance to the old.

1. Sexual life should be valued and guarded, for it is 'life's greatest blessing.'
2. Sexual life should be regulated for purely biological reasons.
3. Each sexual union should be regarded as a responsible act from the point of view of the interests of human society.
4. In arranging sex life due regard should be given to what has been described as the biological tragedy of woman.

Evidently his views are not acceptable to some of his compatriots since he finds it necessary to defend himself in an epilogue against charges of an un-Marxian attitude.

R. G. G.


The object of this book is to give to those who nurse cases of psychological disorders an explanation of the origins of their symptoms. There is no mention here of ordinary methods of nursing. In reality the work may be regarded as a short primer of modern psychological teaching for nurses. It is written in language as simple as the difficulties of the subject will allow. Even then we doubt if it will not prove too big a mouthful for many of those for whom it is intended. As an introduction to the whole subject of the psychoneuroses it can be recommended to medical students or even the laity. A bibliography at the end of the book and at the end of each chapter are useful features for the reader who would proceed further in his studies.


The object of this presentation is to study those disorders of the mind which, however diverse their manifestations, are alike in depending on changes in