The reflex of posture and shortening (Incertezza e difficoltà nel rilievo dei reflessi di postura e di accorciamento).—S. Garetto. Riv. di pat. nerv. e ment., 1932, 39, 559.

The author has studied the postural reflex of shortening of the foot and of the thigh in normal subjects and in patients suffering from various types of nervous and mental illness, and points out the difficulty which is met with in the interpretation of such phenomena. Basing his results on his observations he concludes that the posture reflex is not constant in the normal subject, that in pyramidal lesions it is not always abolished or diminished, and that in extrapyramidal lesions the reflex hypertonia of posture is not always found.

With reference to the postural reflex of the catatonic type in subjects who are not catatonic he says that such phenomena may be attributed in the Parkinsonian syndrome to an exaggerated postural reflex allied in great measure to hypertonia, while in the syndromes where hypertonia is absent it may be regarded as a psychomotor reaction, which is not exactly the same as a catatonic syndrome. As to the sign of anticipation of passive movement, the author denies to such a phenomenon any special morbid significance and says that it has nothing in common with postural reflexes.

R. G. G.


It is extremely common to find fatty material in eighth nerve tumours, either lying free in the syncytial plasma of the growth or with a certain predilection for a perinuclear site. Occasionally it fills the whole cytoplasm. The cells in which this occurs are termed by the author ‘xanthomatoid’; they are generally situated near vessels but also under the capsule of the