

Reviews and Notices of Books

Intracranial Tumours. By Harvey Cushing, Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School. With 111 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1933. Pp. 154. Price 22s. 6d.

IN this slender volume Professor Harvey Cushing puts the crown on his labours of years in a subject with which his name will always be associated, that of intracranial tumours. The book is based on his report given to the International Neurological Congress at Berne in 1931, and contains the results, in summarized form, of his study of 2,000 verified cases. No such vast experience has ever fallen to the lot of previous toilers in the same field of activity. The book may be said to present the cream of the subject, for it provides a series of tabular statements bearing on each of the principal varieties of cerebral tumour, as classified by himself, ranging from glioma (and its variants) to a miscellaneous group, there being 11 in all. The value of the work as a personal record is greatly enhanced by the tables of operative statistics—mortality percentages year by year and in gross, percentages for separate tumour groups, and so on; standards of computation are assessed and the factors governing mortality-rates examined. As a single illustration, in 1922–23, 94 patients were submitted to operation, with a case-mortality of 23·4 and an operative mortality of 16·9 per cent.; in 1930–31 the number operated on was almost double (170), but the case-mortality fell to 8·8 and the operative mortality to 6·8 per cent. These figures constitute a truly impressive record of improvement and success.

Those who are old enough to recall the times of the pioneers in cerebral surgery will be the first to appreciate at its full worth the magnificent advances made by Cushing; his work really marks an epoch in the history of that subject, and to follow its evolution during the last three decades has been a fascination and a stimulus. If he so chooses, he may well rest on his laurels, for at home and abroad his attainment is acknowledged by all.

Les Tumeurs de la Loge Cérébelleuse. By Th. de Martel and J. Guillaume. Paris: Gustave Doin et Cie. 1934. Pp. 454. Price 90 fr.

THE output of special monographs dealing with one or other division of the vast subject of intracranial tumours shows no sign of diminishing. This latest contribution deals with the symptomatology, diagnosis, and treatment of growths in the posterior fossa and is based on a study of 139 examples. The following classification is adopted: tumours of the median line, cerebellar hemispheres, pontocerebellar angle, and pedunculobulbopontine axis; and

cystic arachnoiditis, respectively. Each of these subdivisions is discussed at length from a clinico-anatomical standpoint. More than half of the book is concerned with the surgical technique adopted and gives a précis of some 56 selected cases. From a neurological point of view the descriptions are adequate. Probably the chief appeal of the work is to the neurosurgeon, since procedures elaborated by M. de Martel are described at length, and minutely illustrated. It would have been interesting to find a record of the results obtained by operation, but none is supplied.

Benign Tumours in the Third Ventricle of the Brain. By Walter E. Dandy, M.D., Adjunct Professor of Surgery, The Johns Hopkins University. With 120 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1934. Pp. 171. Price 22s. 6d.

ALL neurologists will be interested in Professor Dandy's study of colloid cysts of the third ventricle, a rare and somewhat peculiar condition that has engaged attention whenever it has appeared. Certain other benign tumours of the same region are also included in this study, which covers signs and symptoms, diagnosis, pathology and treatment in a comprehensive way. The monograph is handsomely illustrated, there being almost as many pictures as pages. Thanks mainly to ventriculography, of which the author has been the prime exponent, to whom all credit is due, the recognition of these tumours has become less elusive, and this prerequisite to surgical attack has had the consequence of facilitating the latter. In Professor Dandy's hands remarkable curative results have been secured, for which he deserves sincere congratulations. In all, some five cases of the first group and 16 of the second are described in the fullest detail; their various signs and symptoms are compared and contrasted, and tabular statements make the information easily accessible. Neurological signs cannot be depended on for diagnosis, the most usual yet non-specific being loss of pupillary reflexes; accompanying cerebellar signs are 'falsely localizing.' Diagnosis was effected by ventriculography in all of the five colloid cysts and in 12 of the 16 others; neurological examination sufficed in one alone of the whole collection.

Chirurgische Neuropathologie. Bd. I.: Die peripherischen Nerven; Bd. II.: Das Rückenmark. By Professor Dr. L. Puusepp, Tartú. With many illustrations. Tartú: J. G. Krüger. 1932 and 1933. Pp. 662 and 679. Price 35s.

PROFESSOR PUUSEPP'S work in neurosurgery and neuropathology is well known beyond the confines of his native Esthonia, and in these two compact volumes he has managed to compress a great amount of learning in regard to both peripheral nerves and spinal cord from the standpoint of present-day neurological surgery. They are excellently illustrated and richly annotated

with references. The first volume begins with a general description of individual nerves, cranial and peripheral, and of the surgical approach to each; the general symptomatology and diagnosis of peripheral nerve lesions are then examined; and the rest of the study is devoted to the symptoms and treatment of (1) traumatic injuries, (2) tumours, and (3) neuralgic states, of the same structures. The second volume follows more or less similar lines, a great deal of attention being given to contemporary technique in spinal cord diagnosis. There is much in this second volume of orthopædic interest, e.g. treatment of affections of the spinal column, as well as a detailed account of that of congenital anomalies of cord and spine. The discussions in respect of spinal tumours are full of interest and value, based as they are on personal experience. Both volumes comprise a series of statistical tables which will prove useful to the specialist, and are completed by a generous index.

The merits of the work consist chiefly in the fact that the writer is neither a surgeon turned neurologist nor a neurologist who fancies his skill as a surgeon, but one who belongs to a select coterie, trained in both schools and conversant with both aspects of his subject. This contribution to surgical neuropathology is sure of wide appreciation.

The Surgery of the Sympathetic Nervous System. By George E. Gask, F.R.C.S., Professor of Surgery, University of London; and J. Paterson Ross, F.R.C.S., Reader in Surgery, University of London. With 13 plates and 30 other illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1934. Pp. 163. Price 16s.

THE authors of this book have derived their material and experiences from work in the surgical unit at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and have compiled a useful and interesting record, not too elaborate on the one hand or superficial on the other; and while anatomical and physiological data are properly introduced they are not made too complex for ready understanding. A few simple diagrams illustrate this part of the book. Its main divisions refer to sympathectomy for (1) disorders of the circulation, (2) disorders of visceral motor mechanisms, and (3) pain. In all of these the still experimental character of much of the treatment is duly emphasized, the importance of selecting suitable cases stressed, and the caution with which results should be interpreted underlined. But though judgment is thus at times suspended in a scientific spirit, the whole record is one of an encouraging kind, despite failures—not overlooked, but analysed. Very wisely attention is directed to the fact that 'surgical experiments' may take months or possibly years to yield their results, and that immediate issues may not represent the true sequel to sympathectomy. Among the conditions here discussed from this particular surgical standpoint may be enumerated Raynaud's disease, thromboangitis obliterans, senile and diabetic gangrene, chronic ulcers, leprosy, megacolon, hydro-ureter and other urinary affections, dysmenorrhœa, angina pectoris, and causalgia.

Pink Disease. By Ch. Rocaz, Honorary Physician, Children's Hospital, Bordeaux. Translated by Ian Jeffreys Wood, M.D. With 20 illustrations. London: Martin Hopkinson. 1933. Pp. 153. Price 7s. 6d.

THE monograph on pink disease (or infantile acrodynia, as it is sometimes misleadingly termed) written by Dr. Rocaz gives the reader an up-to-date presentment of knowledge in regard to a curious affection whose precise nature is still indeterminate. Its history, symptomatology, clinical types, and pathology are described at some length and in a satisfactory manner; but when we turn to the question of ætiology and pathogenesis we realize how inconclusive are the opinions of the day. The author advances evidence which in his view suggests that the disease is an 'inflammation' of the whole nervous system, a 'neuraxitis,' closely allied to epidemic encephalitis. The pathological findings, however, are too variable and inconstant for this view to be substantiated; secondary infections are not uncommon, but whether any are primary is much more debatable. No pathogenic theory hitherto offered suffices to cover the whole range of disorders of mental, nervous, alimentary, cutaneous, and glandular nature; Dr. Rocaz, we think, undervalues the significance of the fact that disturbance in the vegetative nervous and reticuloendothelial systems is frequently observed.

The translation reads well; the book has good illustrations and a useful list of references.

Les Arachnoïdites Spinales Adhésives. By Dr. Dem. Paulian, Bucarest, and Dr. D. Turnesco, Paris. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1933. Pp. 96. Price 24 fr.

A SATISFACTORY little monograph on spinal arachnoiditis has been written by Drs. Paulian and Turnesco, in which its features are succinctly described, diagnosis and treatment being examined in some detail. The condition is defined as a combined radiculospinal syndrome, of variable evolution, often long drawn out or lingering, which shows evidence of being based on inflammatory reactions in the leptomeninges, with partial or complete block of the subarachnoid system. Among the causes a place is assigned to trauma, fevers and exanthems, gonococcal or meningococcal infection, tubercle (not, however, syphilis) and Kümmel's disease. The X-ray findings after lipiodol are well illustrated. Operation is recommended; of 100 cases a cure followed in 40, considerable relief in 20, and slight in 10.

Sémiologie du Sommeil. By Dr. Auguste Tournay, Paris. Paris: Gustave Doin et Cie. 1934. Pp. 136. Price 30 fr.

DR. TOURNAY has written a thoughtful essay on the phenomena of natural sleep as observed in infant and adult, and has endeavoured to explain them by reference to current views on the physiology of sleep. Three principal

modes of interpretation are scrutinized : (1) the rôle of inhibition ; (2) the part played by a regulating mechanism ; (3) the action of the vegetative nervous system. Of these the two first concern physiological levels, the third a physiological system. The author makes a synthetic contribution to the subject, based on these differing views, which is worthy of note. His essay is a model of logical thinking and lucid writing, replete with personal observations, and throws light on a subject of perennial interest.

Psychoanalysis and Medicine. A Study of the Wish to Fall Ill. By Karin Stephen, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Cambridge : University Press. 1933. Pp. 238. Price 8s. 6d.

THIS book supplies a definite need. It is a plain and straightforward exposition of the psychoanalytic theory written principally for medical students but in non-technical language, so that even those who know nothing of medicine may be interested.

Dr. Stephen has divided her material into eight chapters, each with a summary. The first six give a brief outline of how emotional growth may become arrested as a result of the entanglement of infantile sexuality with the non-sexual instincts of fear and hostility, which have been aroused by disappointment and frustration in early life. The technique of free association is explained—that technique devised by Freud for getting into touch with the repressed part of the self in order that the affects that have caused the illness may become ventilated and dispersed. In these chapters the common criticisms of psychoanalysis are dealt with in a helpful manner. Psychosexual development is traced through its several phases and the factors that may constitute towards fixation at each level discussed.

The most important chapters in the book are possibly those which deal with anxiety and guilt and with the mechanisms adapted by normal individuals—by sublimation—and by those abnormal—by symptom formation—to defend themselves against these disturbing influences. Characteristics of the primitive unconscious are pointed out : (1) Its complete disregard for consistency, (2) its belief in magical thinking and wishing, (3) its confusion of fantasy with fact and of thinking with doing. The author touches upon the vexed question of the transference by means of which psychoanalytic therapy progresses. Almost the last paragraph in the book shows the necessity there is for the analyst himself to have been psychoanalysed before dealing with others by the same method. Dr. Stephen's book does not suffer, as do so many works dealing with this subject, from being too highly theoretical or too clinical. The outstanding advantage is that she has contrived to combine the theory—clearly and simply described—with well-chosen clinical material.

A. C. W.