Reviews and Notices of Books


In this volume are set forth the views of German neurologists on various diseases of the nervous system. The opinions on so-called 'functional' disorder are of special interest. Many will disagree with the latter, as it is doubtful if any theory could be advanced that would satisfy all shades of neurological opinion. The work is well and clearly written.


This, the latest volume in their series of publications, is one of the largest issued under the auspices of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. It is finely illustrated and documented, and may be claimed to embody the most recent work on the complex question with which it deals. The book, as is practically inevitable, is composed rather of a collection of individualized studies than of a conspectus over the whole field; its principal part deals with cerebral function as observed after lesions, small or large, neoplastic or vascular, natural or artificial. For example, frontal lobe function is inferred from partial bilateral frontal lobectomy (Brickner); observations (Penfield, German and others) based on more extensive lobectomies are utilized for the same purpose. It must always be matter for discussion whether the method throws as much light on normal function as is more or less tacitly assumed; we know that in the case of the cerebellum the technique has not fulfilled its promise. There are other items of deep interest in the book, not all of which are in reality related to its title, e.g. one dealing with the symptoms of cerebrovascular disease. Evidence is adduced here which suggests that the parietal lobe may exercise a 'trophic' influence on body musculature. Other communications have for their subject the visual cortex, and still others, epilepsy.


During the few years that have elapsed since the first edition of Professor Kuntz's book appeared, research has been busy with the autonomic nervous...
system, the consequence being that views are changing and conceptions widening. Moreover, from a practical standpoint considerably more attention is being engaged with the surgical aspect. These and other trends of the time are recognized and annotated in this new edition of a work which we esteem as one of the best that has ever been written on the sympathetic system. The caution of its author is wholly commendable; his knowledge of his subject is extensive; the clarity of the exposition leaves nothing to be desired. In its new form the book provides the reader with an up-to-date presentation, and is sure to be received and appreciated as generally as was its predecessor.