The author assigns the kinæsthetic disorders to concomitant implication of the anterior limb of the internal capsule. As for the neck and trunk curving, he regards it as purely of caudate origin, or, possibly, due to involvement of the ‘basal bundle’ of Edinger, and thinks it may be compared with the attitude of the neck and trunk in decerebrate rigidity. The ‘circus’ movements are perhaps connected with thalamo-caudate fibres and so with the termination of the superior cerebellar peduncle in the thalamus.

While these experimental researches are a welcome addition to the somewhat scanty literature on the subject, it will readily be seen that they are open to some criticism, both technical and interpretative.

S. A. K. W.


Those who are not psychoanalytically inclined will doubtless be astonished to note that its principles can in any way be applied to such an obvious organic psychosis. Nevertheless, these authors give interesting and illuminating reasons for seeing evidence of psychological factors in general paresis. This will not, however, be surprising to those who view any psychosis as a reaction of an individual whose whole personality, bodily and mentally, is reacting to inward or outward stress. Previous attempts have been made to explain the paretic delusions of grandeur on a basis of physiological and morphological change, but they have been unsatisfactory and unconvincing.

The luetic infection is here regarded as a trauma to the ego and it is shown how similar mechanisms, such as are met with in traumatic neuroses, come into play. It is largely a question of an upsetting of the narcissistic libido, the brain representing the central organ of the ego functions. Within these pages it is demonstrated how the initial neurasthenic symptoms of general paresis, the hypochondria, the depression, the euphoria, exalted delusions, etc., are all psychically determined. Though most of this small volume can only be adequately understood by those who are versed in the current theories of psychoanalysis, there is much stimulating thought therein for any psychiatric reader. It must be taken as an illustration of a distinct advance in our conception of organic mental disorders.

C. S. R.


Any contribution from these leading exponents of psychoanalysis must command respect and attention, and within the small compass of this volume there is much of interest and instruction to practising analysts, for whom it is primarily intended. During the last thirty years the theory of psychoanalysis has expanded far beyond its original bounds and it is not difficult to get lost amongst its intricacies unless certain central principles are kept in

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view when its practice is applied to the treatment of neurosis. The psychology of the analytic situation and actual meaning of such treatment are ably discussed, and later, in a historical retrospect, past mistakes in technique are dealt with. The dynamic factors existing between patient and analyst are the foundation of any resolution of symptoms, and mere 'talking out,' collecting associations, or analyzing out one complex after another, is shown to be largely sterile. It is the whole personality which has to be analysed. Timely stress is laid on the warning that there is a danger of the analyst looking for confirmation of theories while he thinks he is promoting the process of curing a neurosis. Most defects in technique and difficulties arising in the course of treatment result from an incorrect conception of the real nature of the psychoanalytic aim, and the study of the content of these pages should clarify these greatly. It is thought that in the future there will be a simplification of the method and that it may be combined with other methods of psychotherapy. The book should be useful to an increasing number of readers.

C. S. R.


Though fresh books on psychiatry appear from time to time there are comparatively few which justify their publication. This volume, however, is decidedly an exception, and can be heartily recommended to the student who should at an early stage be imbued with the conception of mental disorder as described herein. The author does not pursue the stereotyped plan followed in most textbooks. He opens with an instructive chapter on personality development, tracing the growth of structure and function from lowly animal life to man. Later, he discusses the evolution of personality disorders arising from dysharmonies of the instinctive life and points out the mental processes involved. The various psychoses and psychoneuroses are excellently described, with illustrative cases. Other interesting chapters deal with mental hygiene and the psychopathology of the normal individual. Whether psychiatric nursing should be included in a book of this type is debatable, but we certainly think that the first aid details (with over two pages devoted to poison antidotes) would have been better omitted. Dr. Thomas Salmon writes an introduction, and a good bibliography is appended. Only essentials are given here, as the title states, but they are correctly and interestingly described and the book admirably fulfils the author's aim.

C. Stanford Read.


This little book presents an admirable collection of addresses by representative psychiatrists delivered under the ægis of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene in America. The essays deal with the emotional basis of human behaviour, the opportunities for the application of mental hygiene in