

Das Augenzittern als Gehirnstrahlung ; ein Atlas der Augenzittern-kurven. By Professor Dr. JOHANNES OHM, Bottorp (Westphalia).

With 226 illustrations in the text. Berlin and Vienna : Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1926. Pp. 326. Price M21 ; bound, M24.

PROFESSOR OHM has had wide experience of miners' nystagmus among the coalgetters of Westphalia, and has made many previous contributions to that vexed question. The present volume deals more ambitiously with the whole problem of nystagmus. An amazingly elaborate analysis of the technical features of nystagmus, various ingenious instruments being utilised for the purpose, is followed by a description of the clinical features of the following varieties : miners' nystagmus, spasmus nutans, congenital amblyopic nystagmus, acquired amblyopic nystagmus, so-called railway nystagmus, vestibular nystagmus, nystagmus of central origin (Deiters nystagmus), and hysterical nystagmus. The third section of the volume is taken up with a minute examination of the theoretical side of the subject, the relation of the phenomenon to disorders of the optic and vestibular mechanisms being discussed in a painstaking way. At the end an eight-page bibliography is furnished.

It is a little difficult to summarise the author's views and conclusions, derived from study of an immense amount of clinical material, among which the reader is possibly a little apt to lose his way. Briefly, Professor Ohm holds that miners' nystagmus is an oscillatory phenomenon which is caused by interference with the frequency and strength of the excitations normally passing from the optic centres in the brain to the eye muscles ; it is a disorder of central innervation. To it the spasmus nutans of children is closely allied. Vestibular nystagmus is a reflex reaction whose arc does not extend higher than Deiters' nucleus ; optic nystagmus is a reflex phenomenon the arc of which includes the cortex. It is not easy, further, to follow the author in his comparisons of this physiological disturbance with the tone-variations of music and with the phenomena of wireless. When he declares that as the sun's energy radiates from coal so does a stream of living substance flow from certain cerebral ganglia to exteriorise itself in the movements of nystagmus we feel the language of simile is being unduly strained, as also when he says that through nystagmus the spirit of the ' physical ' makes a broad inroad on the ' neurophysiological.' The book closes with a ' Siegesgesang ' from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

S. A. K. W.

Handbuch der Neurologie des Ohres. Edited by Professor Dr. G. ALEXANDER and Professor Dr. O. MARBURG, Vienna. Volume III.

With 200 illustrations, some in colours. Berlin and Vienna : Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1926. Pp. 825. Price M60 ; bound, M66.

THE third volume of this handsome encyclopædia, the previous volumes of which have already been favourably noticed in this JOURNAL, fully maintains