The second part of the book deals, on a somewhat restricted scale, with neurotic, delinquent, retarded, and dissociated personalities. If it contains no strikingly novel elements or conclusions, it is none the less readable and informative, and sound in its generalities. The main trend of the author's thought is at least as much practical as theoretical, hence the book can be recommended with confidence to the time-pressed physician, who would familiarise himself with the latest advances in our knowledge of personality problems provided they can be shown to have a bearing on his treatment of clinical material. To all such a volume of this kind should prove in an eminent degree helpful.

S. A. K. W.


Professor Léri has written a particularly useful compendium of knowledge in respect of diseases of the spinal column—a subject rather apt to fall between the two stools of medicine and surgery. The book is divided into five sections, dealing respectively with congenital anomalies (of which we may specify spina bifida and its variants, sacralisation of the fifth lumbar vertebra, cervical rib, reduction in number of vertebra); traumatic lesions; ankylosing affections; localised vertebral rheumatism; and a final chapter dealing with other conditions less definitely classifiable.

Excellent drawings (clinical, pathological and radiological) photographs, and diagrams accompany and amplify the descriptions, which are clear and accurate, if cast in a somewhat schematised mould. We do not know any volume occupying the position of this, which should fill a gap in medical literature and is sure of wide appreciation by neurologists and internists.


The question of the possible interconnection of mental symptoms with organic cerebral lesions of neoplastic origin has occupied many minds for many years, but not a few of the numerous contributions to the subject have been to a greater or less extent unsatisfactory. As a fact, the problem is beset with difficulties. In the first place, no constant relation between size of tumour and degree of mental disorder can be established, for in some cases small neoplasms are accompanied by considerable mental change, and in others large growths run their course without mental symptoms coming into the picture to any recognisable extent. Secondly, mental disorders of the most miscellaneous kind have been at one or other time described in tumour cases, involving the affective, the intellectual, or the behaviouristic side of the patient's activities, but no one can say with certitude what particular variety is to be expected
in a particular case. Thirdly, while general mental symptoms (amnesia, hebetude, irritability) have been seen as a late development in some instances, they are sometimes an early manifestation; further, they may be noted both in localisable and in unlocalisable tumours. Fourthly, the association of special mental symptom-complexes with neoplasms occupying particular cerebral sites is always subject to considerable numbers of exceptions. Once more, the actual pathogenesis of mental symptoms is shrouded in some obscurity: rise of intracranial tension, mechanical effects at a distance, local ischaemias and edemas, and invasion of so-called associational fields, are some only of the possible factors in this connexion. Besides, we may ask whether such mental changes as arise follow solely from the presence of the tumour or take their form from the particular terrain in which it is growing; and, as if to complicate the problem more than ever, we may inquire what constitutes a mental symptom and what are to be our definitions in this respect.

All these and cognate questions are admirably handled by Dr. Henri Baruk, whose Thèse de Paris we have read through with much appreciation. His studies are based on some 55 cases of intracranial tumour, and he reaches his conclusions with caution and with a true scientific tendency to suspend judgment that enhances their value. We invite the neurologist and the psychopathologist to familiarise themselves with the contents of this well documented work, which also contains an excellent bibliography.

S. A. K. W.


A translation of Janet's "Les Medications Psychologiques." This work is essentially a history and criticism of the various methods of psychotherapy, and constitutes a veritable mine of information. The sections of which it is composed are of very unequal value, however, a circumstance partly ascribable to the fact that the book is largely made up of reproductions of lectures and addresses delivered at various periods, some of them being more than twenty years old.

The earlier chapters give a historical account of the development of hypnotism and suggestion from the doctrines of the magnetisers, a description of the persuasionist schools, whose tenets are termed by Janet "medical moralisation," and of the "philosophical" methods of treatment lying outside the walls of orthodox medicine, including Christian Science. In the following section treatment by "psychological economies" is considered, comprised in which are the rest and isolation methods developed from Weir Mitchell. All this is extraordinarily well done, and provides a comprehensive and fascinating account which has not been excelled.