mentioned twice but only to repudiate one or other of his conceptions. The
following quotations well demonstrate the writer's prejudices. In childhood
the main feminine characteristics are pointed out to be vanity and talking about
other people. In adolescence there "begin those lies which are characteristic
of woman" and vanity "leads to that particular stupidity which dominates
woman throughout the whole of her life—subservience to fashion." "A woman
doctor if she is operating and a severe haemorrhage occurs will inevitably fail
in the crisis." "During pregnancy sometimes she appears to have lost all her
healthy common sense and judgment." "Woman is superficial, vain, and in
later life the tendency to lying, latent in every woman, becomes more evident."
"The 'dangerous age' is really dangerous, for it destroys the last vestige of a
woman's common sense." "The old woman is morose, ill-natured, mendacious
and boastful (like the old maid) because she can no longer enjoy life." "Woman
lives only for sex and is essentially nothing but sex." We should be sorry
indeed to regard such wholesale diatribes as having that scientific value which
the author gives them. Eliminating the psychological chapters, there is much
that makes useful and interesting reading.

C. S. R.

Epilepsie: vergleichende Pathogenese, Erscheinungen, Behandlung.

By Dr. L. J. J. Muskens, General Secretary of the International League
against Epilepsy, etc. With 52 illustrations. Berlin: Julius Springer.

Dr. Muskens has for long been recognised among neurologists as one who
has made the study of epilepsy the prominent interest of his lifework, and whose
contributions to the subject have always been of value. In this fine monograph
are collected some old and much new material of an experimental kind, and a
great mass of clinical observations, bearing on the obscure problems both of
the exact nature of the epileptic attack and of the neural sites and mechanisms
concerned. As the neurologist will readily appreciate, these are precisely the
aspects of the general problem that must prove of importance for the clinician
and therapeutist, seeing that knowledge of the nature and pathogenesis of the
'disease' must precede its successful treatment.

The view herein advocated and supported by experimental findings is
based on the hypothesis that the simple myoclonic reflex underlies the more
elaborate manifestations of what we call epilepsy, and that the myoclonic form
of epilepsy is, physiologically considered, a kind of 'after-discharge.' A long
and detailed section deals with the regions of the neuraxis from which myoclonic
phenomena (simple and epileptic) can be elicited, and with the precise centres
and tracts involved. The third part of the monograph is clinical, comprising
not only a general description of the facts of observation but also an interesting
chapter on the relation of epileptic phenomena to the 'psychisms,' in which
varieties of loss of consciousness, epileptic equivalents, and the interconnexion
of epilepsy and the psychoses and psychoneuroses are fully considered. Some
40 pages are allotted to the treatment of the condition, in which as much attention is given to questions of prophylaxis and social hygiene as to purely medicinal methods. A final chapter investigates the somewhat difficult and at any rate undecided problems of the influence of surgical intervention in epileptic cases.

Two pages at the end of the book furnish the reader with an analysis of a large number of alleged 'epilepsy cures' of a proprietary character, for which the author deserves our thanks; stripped of their secret they are revealed in most instances as containing little else than potassium bromide.

S. A. K. W.


We should like to echo in this review the words of Professor Julian Huxley in his preface; the book is "written in the simplest language and presented in the most straightforward way." It deals with problems of perennial interest, some at least of which seem now to be taken up by those possessing a little knowledge and incapable of giving really deep consideration to their complexities. Questions, for instance, of the determination of sex and its artificial control exercise the minds and pens of some who, as far as may be judged, are not conversant with the facts; and it is refreshing to find a scientific author not hesitating to speak of "the sea of falsehood in which the editors of our periodical press delight that their readers should bathe."

Mr. Baker covers the ground of sex determination in a peculiarly lucid way, with an easy style that hides from the reader the difficulties he is in reality surmounting; and the cognate problems of parthenogenesis, hermaphroditism, and sex ratio are handled equally clearly. Only in the last chapter, that devoted to sex behaviour, does he leave the trodden paths of objective data for the alluring byways of conjecture. As a foundation of knowledge on which to erect theory no better work than this can be imagined; here is no facile recitation of the "undiluted nonsense" that passes for sex knowledge, but a sober review of the ascertained facts, offered for perusal by the intelligent lay reader as well as by the professional man in a modest and pleasantly impersonal garb.

Further Contributions to the Theory and Technique of Psychoanalysis.

By Sandor Ferenczi. Authorized translation from the German by Jane Isabel Suttie and others. The International Psychoanalytical Library.


All students of psychoanalysis will welcome unreservedly this literature written by an authority, who, after Freud, has perhaps done more original work on the subject than any other worker in the same field. His previous translated contributions were published in 1916 and though they only constituted a small volume, their content was and still remains of great value. Further