taking the form both of defect in arranging them properly for writing or combining the letter-sounds into the word for purposes of reading. In addition, failure to find the right sound of a word in pronouncing its parts, its correct 'word-melody,' is usually noticed, and also failure to grasp the symbolic meaning of the word. Once more, 'speech-feeling' is faulty, thereby being signified the 'natural' effort to build words into a sentence and to arrange them in the way that corresponds to the speech customs of the nationality of the individual concerned.

Dr. Bachmann dismisses as pure conjectures all previous efforts to correlate the condition with lesions of specific, localisable, cerebral mechanisms, since apparently no autopsy on such a case has up to the present been conducted. That a definite connexion nevertheless between structure and function is likely appears from the fact of the inheritance of word-blindness in some families, as reported by Hinshelwood and by Stephenson.


This is a collection of essays on psychology and ethnology. In the psychological section perhaps the most interesting are those on Freud's concept of the censorship, which Rivers tries to bring into line with the control of the cortex over lower centres, and on the primitive conception of death. The failure of the primitive to distinguish between those whom he thinks ought to be dead and those who are dead is a decidedly fascinating question and one which might be introduced into more cultured society.

In the ethnological section there are several interesting papers on customs and culture in Polynesia. Professor Elliot Smith contributes an introduction, in which he draws attention to Rivers's powers of applying his knowledge in one department to clarify his investigations in another.

The papers as a whole come up to the standard we have learnt to expect from the late Dr. Rivers and the publishers are to be congratulated in presenting this further collection of his work.

R. G. G.


This little book deals mainly with the question of chronic arsenical poisoning due to contamination arising out of domestic, as opposed to industrial, contact, and therefore with an aspect of the subject of some importance and hitherto to a large extent rather neglected. Some time ago a questionnaire was sent round to the physicians of Sweden bearing on the development of arsenical poisoning from such sources as domestic utensils, wall decorations, and others connected with the dwellings of the persons concerned, and much useful in-
formation was collected. It has been subjected to a critical analysis by Professor Petren, and the results are here tabulated and examined. Briefly, the author finds that wall-papers for which paints containing arsenic have been utilised in printing, and to a less extent painting of walls with pigments mixed with arsenic-containing oil, are mainly responsible, although in minor degree contamination from draperies, clothes and dress materials, even from stuffed animals, has been demonstrated. The earliest symptoms are headache and increasing fatigue, to which aerodynia and neuritis may subsequently be added. A full survey of the symptomatology of 'domestic' arsenicism is given, and usefully compared with that of 'professional' cases. Nor is the variety arising from internal medication overlooked. A section is devoted to the problems of the mode of entry of the poison.

With a good bibliography, this modest volume forms a valuable contribution to preventive and hygienic medicine, and reveals how much is yet to be accomplished along such lines.


In a series of some 16 'lessons,' after an approved continental method, the student and practitioner of medicine have been provided by the author with a readable account of the symptoms of acute nervous affections such as they, fully as much as the specialist, are likely to encounter in the course of their daily work. The descriptions are partly semiological, partly nosographical; among the former are included comatose states, the sequela of cranial injuries, varieties of acute poisoning, the epilepsies, and so forth, while under the latter come encephalitis and poliomyelitis, meningitis, etc. It may be matter for surprise how much of clinical neurology falls to be included under the category of acute disease, yet possibly a majority of his cases might be found by the physician to belong to the group. Professor Fleischmann's method is didactic rather than critical, as befits the style of the volume, which contains few references to the opinions of other workers and yet reveals on perusal a sound familiarity with nervous disease in its protean forms and a noteworthy ability to communicate to his readers the salient features of nervous syndromes in a way conducing to assimilation. The volume is an excellent exemplar of the particular teaching technique adopted.


The diseases constituting the basis of Dr. MacNalty's researches as an epidemiologist are cerebrospinal fever, poliomyelitis, polioencephalitis, and
so-called encephalitis lethargica. In the chapters dealing with these seriatim will be found incorporated a quantity of statistical information, of great value to the student of acute nervous disease, which as a rule tends to be somewhat inaccessible otherwise. The epidemiological aspect, in point of fact, is rather neglected by the clinical neurologist, who cannot fail to have his horizon widened and illuminated by a perusal of these interesting pages. No less informative are the introductory sections dealing with the history of the diseases concerned, while questions of preventive medicine, of sequelae and of treatment are not ignored. Germane topics also touched on by the author relate to epidemic nervous disease in animals, and the problems of epidemicity considered as a whole.

The book is well documented and contains numerous references to a scattered literature. It should be in the hands of all who would have their knowledge of acute nervous disease strengthened by something more than a mere bedside acquaintance with specific cases.


A companion volume to that by the same author on the affections of the vertebral column (reviewed in this Journal, January, 1927), the present study of the diseases of bones and joints is equally informative and authoritative. It deals with a series of conditions many if not all of which are as likely to come under the notice of the neurologist as of any other specialist. Indeed, we think it reasonable that they should have been thus investigated by one who is a professing neurologist, for he, by training, is capable of appreciating their bearing on the nervous system better than anyone else. Among the conditions here described in a fascinating way are cleidocranial dysostosis, facial and other hemiatrophies and hemihypertrophies, oxycephaly, amenecephaly, hypophyseal dwarfism, osteomalacia, rachitis, Paget's disease, the fibrocystic osseous disease of Recklinghausen, and others no less intrinsically interesting if pathologically obscure. In these two volumes Professor Léri has gleaned a field hitherto largely ignored, isolated contributions apart, and they represent a noteworthy advance in the collection and description of rather out-of-the-way cases which nevertheless are not in any strict sense rare. In addition to disease entities, the author provides useful chapters on semiology, apropos of nodosities of the hand, for example, which show his powers of clinical observation and the width of his clinical experience.

Pathologie et Méthodes d'Examen du Liquide Céphalo-rachidien.

The title of this little book would suggest that the author had attempted to compress our knowledge of the cerebrospinal fluid into 56 small pages. But
nothing appears to have been farther from his intentions, for his book deals only with meningitis, and that in a very incomplete manner. His purpose in writing it seems to have been to explain why one specimen of meningitic cerebrospinal fluid teems with bacteria, but contains very few cells, whereas another has a vast number of cells, but no bacteria. The explanation which he gives, viz., positive and negative chemiotaxis, is not new, nor does it appear by itself to explain all the phenomena of so-called 'sympathetic' or aseptic meningitis with purulent fluids. He describes a few of the more old-established methods of examination, and one or two more recent improvements, such as the vital staining of cells, and Ronchese's modification of Ravaut's albumin method. But this part of the book also is very far from complete.

J. G. GREENFIELD.


The chief purpose of Dr. Wodak's essay is to show the somewhat complicated nature of the apparently simple test known as Bárány's pointing test, and to offer considerations both of a physiological and a clinical kind which should lead to some hesitation in giving it a unitary significance when it is modified by diseased conditions. A number of factors, both labyrinthine and extra-labyrinthine, are capable of influencing it, and illustrations are given of its behaviour under experimental circumstances. The general conclusion is to the effect that this modifiability reduces its usefulness for topo-diagnostic purposes.


Dr. Bascouret's Thèse is based on the clinical examination of 70 cases of tabes, of different varieties and degrees, from the viewpoint of their circulatory condition. This has entailed a long research by clinical methods, coupled with an investigation of pathological material from the same angle. His work has led to certain conclusions, one or two of which may be summarised. Aortic lesions are common enough in tabetics, yet actual aortic insufficiency is altogether rare. Vascular hypertension is often found, but it is nearly always symptomless. The tabetic pulse is usually small in direct proportion to the duration of the disease, and with this microsphygmy goes a syndrome of vascular defect in the shape of vasomotor disorder, commonly vasoconstriiction. The latter does not result either from endarteritis obliterans or from vasomotor spasm, but appears to be conditioned by lesions of the sympathetic centres in the cord, producing a more or less permanent reduction of vessel calibre.