

Reviews and Notices of Books.

A Text-book of Psychiatry for Students and Practitioners. By D. K. HENDERSON, M.D., F.R.F.P.S., Physician-Superintendent, Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital, etc., and R. D. GILLESPIE, M.D., D.P.M., Physician for Psychological Medicine, Guy's Hospital, etc. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1927. Pp. 520. Price 18s. net.

EACH generation of students gets the textbooks it requires. If these exhibit considerable variations in manner and matter this must be the outcome of individualistic points of view and of mass trends in thinking and practice. For assuredly a change has come over psychiatry in the course of the last twenty years, and it is reflected clearly in the pages of Dr. Henderson and Dr. Gillespie's textbook. Whether such a change is indicative of unidirectional movement with some pretence to permanence or merely of an experimental variation it is doubtless premature even to discuss. The point of view assumed by the collaborators is briefly that of Adolf Meyer, who regards mental illness as produced by abnormal or unhealthy reactions of a mind to its environment, and in a specific case seeks to trace all the factors responsible for these reactions. Thus there is here a notable departure from certain other schools of nosology; we read less of diseases and more of "reaction-types"; in place of the more or less schematised forms of mental disorder that have hitherto, at least to some extent, answered their purpose the student will learn of affective reaction-types and of organic reaction-types, and will gather that less attention is to be paid to clinical syndromes and more to the individual's personality and the way in which he meets his problems. In order to emphasise this plan of approaching a psychopathological case the authors have selected a large number of case-histories illustrative of clinical varieties and have reproduced them in no little detail. The advantage of the method is obvious; one of its disadvantages is that the reader's faculty of visualising subjectively what is known to the authors objectively may be very imperfect.

The chapter devoted to general symptomatology is full of useful definitions and explanations, though exception might be taken to one or two statements (*e.g.*, irritation of "the tip of the temporal lobe" is responsible for hallucinations of smell in organic cases, when the uncinate gyrus is meant); under disorders of memory reduplicative paramnesia is not mentioned, fairly common though it is, and of much psychological interest. That concerned with general psychopathology presents a conspectus of Freudian theory and its developments, didactic rather than critical, eclectic rather than comprehensive; it is eminently fair and highly practical in its bearings. Later sections, devoted, as has been indicated, to descriptions of reaction-types, comprise the psychoses

and psychoneuroses and cover the usual psychopathological range. Chapters of technical interest (Method of Examination, Relations of Psychiatry and Law, Occupational Therapy) round off a volume which differs materially from many preceding textbooks of its class and which is calculated in a notable degree to compel the student to think. It is written in a readable style and is well arranged; we should consider, further, that it will prove entirely satisfactory to "work from," even if there is not a single diagram or illustration in the book.

The Endocrine Glands and Autonomic Systems in Dementia Præcox : Clinical and Experimental Investigations. By GABRIEL LANGFELDT, Neevengaarden Mental Hospital, Bergen, Norway. Bergen: J. W. Eides; London: H. K. Lewis & Co. 1927. Pp. 326. Price 7s. 6d.

Loose statements to the effect that dementia præcox is an endocrine disorder are frequently met with in modern psychiatric literature, yet real and precise research in elucidation of the possible relationship of the two has seldom been undertaken. In this monograph the reader will find no less than 40 cases of admitted dementia præcox analysed from the standpoint of exact technique in respect of metabolic and other analogous tests—basal metabolism, carbohydrate metabolism, blood picture, functional tests for the visceral nervous system. These elaborate investigations, conducted over a long period, have led the author to formulate the following, among other, conclusions.

Catatonic variety: essential disturbances consist in slow pulse, low blood pressure, lymphocytosis, swelling of lymph glands, exaggerated reaction to pilocarpin, signs of vagotonia, reduced basal metabolism. In acute phases dilated pupils, tachycardia, exophthalmos (sympathicotonia) and reduced glucose tolerance may be found.

Hebephrenic variety: in acute and chronic phases only signs of sympathicotonia are present, such as tachycardia, exophthalmos, tremor, dilated pupils, reduced glucose tolerance. Basal metabolism and blood picture are alike normal.

It is held that the essential disturbances in catatonia agree with the clinical syndrome of a status thymolymphaticus. The sympathetic phenomena are considered as being provoked by the struggle of the organism against the factors that cause the psychosis to become manifest. It is probable these sympathetic disorders are of central origin (basal ganglia, midbrain). As for hebephrenia, the somatic findings are an expression of a sympathicotonic constitution.

At the basis of the psychosis is a specific inferior endocrine formula, which is responsible both for the development of the special constitutional type of the psychotic and for an inferior development of the brain. When this inferior system is exposed to too great a strain the acute phases of the psychosis make their appearance. Thus the essential constitution is considered to be the cause of the prepsychotic personality, while acute impairment of the endocrine

system accounts for the incipient emotional and other symptoms. Dementia follows from the action of endocrine toxins on a brain possibly hypersensitive to them. Should neuroglandular equilibrium become established clinical remissions ensue, with persisting defects in greater or less degree.

The author's working hypothesis is ingenious, and appears justified from a review of the data here presented and summarised in impressive tables. There is a bibliography of no less than 486 references.

Therapeutic Malaria. By G. de M. RUDOLF, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Claybury Mental Hospital. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1927. Pp. 223. Price 12s. 6d. net.

THE vogue which the malarial treatment of general paralysis is at present enjoying has been responsible for innumerable contributions in medical journals at home and abroad, but there is a certain satisfaction in the appearance in book form of a compendious account of technique, complications, and therapeutic results, written by one who has made himself a master of his subject. Here in relatively small compass the practitioner will find all that he needs in respect of therapeutic practice, while the parasitologist and those who are interested in tropical diseases cannot fail to realise that "artificial" malaria brings its own contribution to the sum of knowledge that comes within their sphere. The neurologist and psychiatrist, too, will peruse Dr. Rudolf's pages with instruction, none the less because of the notably cautious and fair comments which he passes on his clinical results, derived from a study of some 63 personally treated cases. Numerous charts and several plates, and an excellent bibliography, combine to render this publication as complete as is possible when the essentially experimental nature of the treatment is borne in mind. Dr. Rudolf shows that the remissions obtained in general paralysis by the malarial method surpass those of any other method both as regards quantity and quality, yet he does not allow himself to "plump" for it as the therapy of choice in any sense other than that it is the least unsatisfactory at present known to the clinician. Whether some day a totally different therapeutic technique will be evolved is for the future to decide. Good as it appears to be, a non-specific treatment must be relinquished, one supposes, should a specific treatment eventually be elaborated. In the meantime, this excellent little volume fulfils its purpose admirably.

Handbuch der Psychiatrie. Edited by Professor Dr. G. ASCHAFFENBURG. Allg. Teil; Bd. I. Normale und pathologische Anatomie und Histologie des Grosshirns. By Professor Dr. A. JAKOB (Hamburg). Leipzig and Vienna: Franz Deuticke. 1927. Pp. 457. Price M57; bound, M60.

THIS is a very fine production from every point of view. As a manual of cerebral neuropathology it will at once take a foremost place; and since nearly one-half of the volume is devoted to the normal histology of the nervous

system, it must prove of equal interest to the physiologist and anatomist. There are some 270 illustrations in the text, the great majority of which are in colours, while almost all are original—an additionally satisfactory feature. Paper and typography leave nothing to be desired.

Dr. Jakob covers his field with conspicuous lucidity and in an orderly and comprehensible fashion ; his accumulations of material and his store of erudition are alike unusual in these days of easy book-making. His third chapter, on normal neural histology, is the best and most wide-ranging compendium of knowledge in this respect with which we are acquainted ; in particular, the sections on neuroglia are complete in their modernity. An attractive feature of the sections on neuropathology is the author's plan of printing consecutively drawings or photographs of sections from the same piece of material but stained by different methods, thus providing a series of views of microscopic changes in the tissues taken as it were from different angles yet capable of being suitably blended by the reader's mind, so as to give him a proper idea of their totality. To enter into any detailed description or criticism would require more space than is at our disposal but we have sufficiently indicated the scope of the volume and its authoritative character. Few books merit the encomium of indispensability ; Dr. Jakob's belongs, however, to the select few.

S. A. K. W.

Mikroskopisch-topographischer Atlas des menschlichen Zentralnervensystems. By Professor Dr. OTTO MARBURG, Director of the Neurological Institute of the University of Vienna. Third enlarged and revised edition. With 40 illustrations in the text, and 32 plates. Leipzig and Vienna : Franz Deuticke. 1927. Pp. 226. Price M28 ; bound, M33.

It is nearly twenty years since the last edition of this atlas was published, a book with which many neurologists at home and abroad became familiar, and which served as an admirable introduction to the minutiae of neuro-anatomy. Intervening years have witnessed considerable advances in knowledge even of the pure morphology of the nervous system, especially in regard to the cortex and the basal ganglia and its connexions. Professor Marburg has incorporated recent acquisitions in this third edition, which is remarkably complete in its descriptions and particularly to be recommended for its finely drawn plates—in the reviewer's opinion always preferable to photographic reproductions. The illustrations in the text, further, especially those of cell-groups at various levels, are sure to be useful. References cited at the bottom of the text pages enhance its value materially for those who wish to work further on any special point.

With commendable ambition Professor Marburg furnishes the reader with the Latin terminology, and the German, English, French and Italian equivalents, for the various neural structures illustrated in his plates. No doubt this has meant a great deal of labour, and on the whole the outcome is satisfactory. Yet there are a regrettable number of mistakes and misprints