

apportionment of tone in the extremities." He therefore cannot support the contentions of Magnus and Rademaker; on the contrary, his experiments suggest that the centres are in the *substantia reticularis*.

S. A. K. W.

Neurobiologische Studien am menschlichen Foetus. By M. MINKOWSKI.

Methoden der Reflexprüfung bei Menschen. By ARTHUR BÖHME. Section No. 253 of the *Handbuch der biologischen Arbeitsmethoden*, edited by Geh. Med.-Rat Prof. Dr. EMIL ABDERHALDEN. Berlin and Vienna: Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1928. Pp. 511-592. Price Mk. 10.

THE first contribution in this section of Prof. Abderhalden's monumental *Handbuch* deals with the physiology of the foetus and opens up a new field. As can be understood, the living material, derived almost entirely from Cæsarean sections, has a very brief survival period and must be utilised quickly and systematically. Full details of the author's technique in this respect are furnished. It is not a little surprising, perhaps, that he has been able to investigate not merely the comparatively simple matter of reflexes (cutaneous and deep) but also the postural reactions of Magnus and de Kleijn and the electrical reactions of muscles; further, by appropriate experimentation attempts have been made to determine function at different neural levels.

Following Jacksonian conceptions, Prof. Minkowski draws an analogy between the results of dissolution effected by disease and the types of functional activity found in the foetus, but he states in more than one place that this likeness must not be taken too strictly.

In the second contribution the reader is given a very complete account of the reflexes, usual and unusual, employed in clinical medicine, embracing not a few which deserve greater attention than is commonly allotted them. Of value are the references to the original descriptions. The term "reflex" is used with considerable latitude, since phenomena are here included which belong rather to the groups of spinal automatisms and mesencephalic reactions. The sole question in this respect that does not appear to be adequately dealt with is that of cortical "reflexes," and this is the more regrettable since they are now realised to be of considerable significance.

Die Psychocathartische Behandlung nervöser Störungen. By Dr. LUDWIG FRANK. Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1927. Pp. 208.

THE author adopts the term "thymopathy" for the psychoneuroses in general and apparently also for some psychoses, and advocates a method of treatment which he believes to be efficacious in them. The essence of the method is the induction of a state of "half-sleep"—a state between sleeping and waking in which active attention is abolished, and when "unconscious" trends come to consciousness in the form of visual images, accompanied by their appropriate

emotion. This process he designates as a kind of abreaction, and the appearance in consciousness of the images is assumed to be a matter of free association. There is, therefore, nothing at all new in the method except its restriction to the half-waking state. He describes its application in a number of conditions, in a very general way.

R. D. G.

Die Grundlagen der Psychoanalyse. By Dr. HEINZ HARTMANN. Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1927. Pp. 192. Price M. 9.60.

THE author is concerned to display psychoanalysis as a science and its methods as scientific methods. He points out that its concepts and bearing are biological, and he relates certain psychoanalytic findings to results obtained in the laboratories of experimental psychology. There are chapters, among others, on free association, on the unconscious, on psychical dynamics, on symbolism, instinct, the libido-theory, and on the relation of psychoanalysis to psychiatry. They contain convenient summary expositions of the basic Freudian assumptions, with a defence of the latter where a defence seemed necessary. The chapter on the relations of psychoanalysis and psychiatry emphasises the importance of psychoanalytic contributions to the study of the content in the psychoses, and claims priority for psychoanalysis in the systematic investigation of the personality. The psychoanalytic interpretation of the real significance of precipitating factors is also elaborated. There is a commendable caution in the author's attitude towards the would-be psychoanalytic explanation of essential epilepsy. The book is a useful summary and defence of psychoanalytic theory, on a broad basis.

R. D. G.

Stammering. A Psychoanalytic Interpretation. By ISADOR H. CORIAT, M.D. (Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series, No. 47.) Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Co., New York and Washington. 1928. Pp. 68.

THIS monograph is an amplification of contributions on the subject previously published by the author in various journals. Different theories of stammering—cerebral congestion, transient auditory amnesia, spastic neurosis of speech, localized motor obsessional neurosis, hereditary tic—are briefly considered and found to be unsatisfactory from many points of view. In the following chapters the writer's views are elaborated at some length to show that stammering is a psychoneurosis and that its rational treatment and prevention must be on psychoanalytical lines. Stammering is regarded as a regression to the earliest level of childhood, at which stage in this respect there is an arrest of development. The individual has remained fixed at the oral stage of libido, finds morbid gratification in his symptom by means of which he tenaciously retains his earliest source of pleasure, that of nursing. There is also a conflict produced by ego resistance against betrayal through speech of certain thoughts,