energy of their own, finding the common source of energy in the 'life-urge' or 'horm.' On this view repression as a separate activity is an unnecessary hypothesis; the phenomena of the so-called unconscious are explicable on the basis of what is equivalent to a 'drainage-theory' of psychological inhibition. Processes of behaviour more or less instinctive work themselves out in so far as expectations of ends are created; these expectations upon which so much weight is placed as stimuli to activity (and which may apparently be also physiological, on the monistic hypothesis), are when conscious the psychical correlates of the 'life-urge.'

The book is clearly written and makes easy reading if the numerous assumptions are placidly accepted. It does some service in calling attention to difficulties in the present position of the theory of the unconscious and of repression. Although utilising data from abnormal psychology it shows no acquaintance with recent contributions from the latter to the problems under Dr. Garnett's consideration. Like all works of its kind, the book suffers by comparison with work derived from first-hand observation of human material, normal and abnormal; and it displays abundantly the academic habits of taking data from conscious experience at their face value, and of easy-going translations of theoretically-derived concepts into psychological entities with a real existence and sometimes a quantitative expression.

R. D. G.


A new volume in the 'Recent Advances' series published by Messrs. Churchill deals with neurology in a pleasantly informative fashion, embodying a wide survey of recent additions to neurological doctrine, whose subjects range from the cerebrospinal fluid to sleep. "Une étude scientifique n'est jamais terminée," as Janet once said: the task of maintaining up-to-dateness, never easy, is more than a little difficult in the case of the nervous system, for it continues to evoke more research than many other divisions of the medical field. We think the authors have acquitted themselves remarkably well, and produced an eminently practical and serviceable multum in parvo that is sure of appreciation. Nor does it form a mere précis of the work of others; opinions and conclusions are not slavishly set down, but subjected to criticism and modification in the light of the authors' own experiences and studies.


Taking the conception of feeblemindedness as being constituted by stationary mental defect, and excluding combinations with organic nervous affections and with epilepsy, the author of this monograph bases his conclusions on the study
of some 209 cases of the condition. Among these he has noted various developments of a psychotic character. Manic states, rarely endogenous, seem mainly to arise as the result of the action of some exogenous noxa; altogether, these are distinctly rare. Depressive states, on the other hand, are more definitely endogenous, but their numbers approximate to those of the first-named. Alterations of mood, a rather mixed group, scarcely call for separate mention, as they are typical of feeblemindedness. Marked psycholability is common enough; anxiety states also occur with some frequency, usually assuming a paranoid garb. A sub-group is constituted by an anxiety-hallucinatory type. As a general rule, psychoses of this latter kind are prone to develop between the years of 18 and 23; they are in most instances amenable to treatment.

States of mental confusion of all grades, 'twilight states,' stupors, and so forth, may make their appearance after the age of 40, and in some 60 per cent. of cases exhibit a periodicity. Catatonic and hyperkinetic syndromes are distinctly rare, but hallucinoses are common. Definite schizophrenia forms a fractional percentage, whereas borderland types which present relationships of a semiological kind to one or other of all the above-mentioned psychoses form the majority of the total number. As a general conclusion, the author stresses the point that these episodic psychoses of the feebleminded form a special variety of the exogenous class.

The author has made a practical clinical contribution to a somewhat confused subject, which may aid in further research on the psychoses as a whole.

**Le Diagnostic dans les Affections de la Colonne Vertébrale chez l'Adulte.**


There is much of neurological interest in this well-illustrated monograph devoted to the diagnosis of affections of the spine. It is based on the experience of three French naval surgeons, who have found quite a proportion of their naval hospital cases to belong to this class. At an early stage of spinal pains diagnosis is often difficult; and to distinguish between the benign and the serious requires patient investigation by the most modern methods.

A scheme of clinical examination is in our opinion well-planned and remarkably comprehensive, and it is followed by a semiological description, first of a topographical and then of a general kind; in a final section specific spinal affections are examined. The range is of considerable width, seeing that it extends from congenital anomalies such as spina bifida occulta to disorders of psychic origin such as camptocormia, and includes the somewhat amorphous group of infective varieties of spondylitis. For diagnostic purposes reliance is placed on lumbar puncture, radiography, and lipiodol just as much as on direct examination. The difficulties associated with 'pain in the back' are faced squarely and lucidly. Excellent diagrams are reproduced, that of the spinal column as seen from the front, with its relation to neighbouring structures, being especially useful.

The first part of this, the latest of Dr. Stekel's large contributions to psychopathology and, according to his preface, the "end of his life's work," was reviewed in these columns (see this Journal, vol. VIII, p. 285); the second portion embodies long accounts of actual psychoanalytic investigation of individual cases—the most complete he has published. As before, the clinical material is diverse and in some respects uncommon. That entitled "Die Haarsprache" presents features of no little interest, even if the obsession itself follows ordinary lines. Descriptions are given also of schizophrenic and paranoid cases treated by psychoanalytical methods. A last word closes the sequence of these elaborate volumes, one of generous appreciation of the genius of Freud, with whom, as everyone knows, the author has not seen eye to eye; "Ich werde nie vergessen, dass er die Fackel entzündet hat, die die Wege meiner Forschungen beleuchtet."


Mr. Hugh Cairns, holder of a Rockefeller scholarship, has spent one year as an assistant resident surgeon in Dr. Harvey Cushing's clinic at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Mass., and has in this report collected and surveyed the material to which he had access during that time. He deals with the diagnosis and treatment mainly of intracranial tumours according to the technique employed by Dr. Cushing, and gives a readable and informative account of methods and results. These are already known in greater or less degree to many who have either seen the clinic themselves or perused the various contributions which have emanated from it, but it is useful to possess a summary of a typical year's work in the form of a report by one who is not an American and who gives personal impressions of a not uninteresting kind. A number of clinical and pathological illustrations are included.

We note that Mr. Cairns combats the idea that a patient who is suffering from a cerebral tumour will never be 'quite right' again, and cites a case to the contrary, but of only six months' duration! He says specifically that "it is rather remarkable that such perfect recovery should follow removal of a tumour of the brain," but admits that this case "has not been observed for a sufficient length of time." He then cites another, operated on in 1910, in which 17 years of normal activity followed. Some of those in England who in other days were associated with the late Sir Victor Horsley know that this record is easily exceeded by several of his.

The writer of this series of lectures is concerned to show how patterns of behaviour antedate the appearance of an anatomical nervous system, and outlines an ingenious hypothesis to the effect that a gradient of electric potential, acting along the external limiting membrane (say in Amblystoma) is the essential factor in determining the path along which the nascent nerve-cell will grow. Prenearial integrating forces originate before neural functions; longitudinal "metabolic gradients" (this term is used in the sense imagined by Professor Child) are the precursors of anatomical neural tracts. Much significance is attached to the Rohon-Beard cell, a cell which has its body within the spinal cord, an ascending and a descending process in the cord, and another branch passing out as a sensory fibre. The latter divides into two filaments, one of which goes to muscle and the other to skin. Thus the cell is at once exteroceptive and proprioceptive; it fuses two modes of excitation into one mode of nerve impulse. In this sense it appears to be the prototype of the associational mechanism in the nervous system of vertebrates. In a definite sense, too, the pyramidal cell of the cerebral cortex, or the Purkinje cell of the cerebellar, can be regarded as a Rohon-Beard cell even if removed from the receptor field. Once function starts all these cells grow extensively. Topographical position in the brain is of less significance for groups of ganglion cells than the period in time when they commence participation in the conditioning of behaviour.

We commend these thoughtful pages to the attention of the philosophically-minded.


Professor Von Economo's smaller volume on the cerebral cortex, a French edition of which has already been reviewed (see this Journal, October 1928, p. 190) now appears in an English edition, well printed and illustrated and of convenient format. It is sure of wide appreciation among English readers, representing as it does the present highwater mark of advance in knowledge of the human cerebral cortex, and suggestive, too, of knowledge still to be acquired. Without studies of this kind descriptions of pathological changes in the cortex are deprived of their significance; the meaning of such alterations can be understood only by reference to comprehensive acquaintance with normal cerebral structure. Correlation of the latter with cerebral function is in its infancy, so to speak; and the distinguished author of this work indicates in his final chapter the lines along which further researches are likely to prove profitable.