

denied. Obsessions are parasitic psychic products of distant origin in which the affect is attached to the memories, imaginations and aspirations of childhood. Hysteria is characterized by an incapacity to assimilate moral impressions which are disagreeable to the excessive self-love of the individual.

The book closes with a chapter on the therapy of neuropathic syndromes. Physical therapy and the traditional moral treatment receive adequate notice, but the author relies mainly for treatment of all the psycho-neuroses upon Freudian psycho-analysis, the explanation and technique of which are set out at length.

On the whole the book is interesting and readable. A considerable portion is admittedly descriptive, and it would probably be more valuable were more space given to the theories and classifications of other writers, though the tone is not unduly dogmatic. The type is good. The plates are small and not very well reproduced, but some of them are characteristic. There is no index in an ordinary sense, but quite a full table of contents. The covers are of paper.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Neurology.

Metastatic Tumours of the Brain. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, April, 1927.) *Globus, J. H., and Selinsky, H.*

In only 4 out of 12 cases reported by the authors were the metastatic foci single. In the others the foci showed wide variations in number, size and distribution. The seat of the primary growth was: A bronchus in 2 cases, the skin in 3 cases, the colon in 2 cases, the suprarenal in 1 case, the prostate in 1 case and the urinary bladder in 1 case. The clinical signs and symptoms depend on the extent of the involvement of the brain by the principal largest mass, the presence of a mass, however small, in a vital part of the cerebro-spinal axis, or the presence of a nodule so situated that it will obstruct the flow of the cerebro-spinal fluid. The authors conclude that acute onset of cerebral symptoms with rapid development of signs of a disseminated character and symptoms of increased intra-cranial tension, in the absence of changes in the discs and positive serologic or febrile manifestations, suggests strongly a metastatic process. The probability is strengthened by the appearance of progressive wasting and asthenia out of proportion to that encountered in primary tumours of the brain.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Protein Sensitization in Epilepsy. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, April, 1927.) *Ward, J. F., and Patterson, H. A.*

The authors tested the protein sensitivity to uncooked proteins of 1,000 epileptics and 100 non-epileptics. In the Craig Colony

group it was found to be 37% and in the New Jersey State Village for Epileptics 56·8%. In the non-epileptic group only 8% showed a positive reaction. The authors suggest the investigation of sensitivity to cooked protein extracts. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Treatment of Meningococcal Cerebro-spinal Meningitis [À propos du traitement de la méningite cerebro-spinale à méningocoques]. (Fourn. Neur. et Psychiat. Belg., May, 1927.) Bouche, G.

The author states that he has complete faith in the efficacy of treatment by anti-meningococcal serum, but in order that it may be effective it is essential that the serum can reach the lesion in sufficient concentration. He therefore strongly urges that in all cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis the appropriate serum should be introduced not only into the lumbar canal, but into both ventricles, in children and adults, at the earliest moment. He gives the following list of signs, in the lumbar fluid, of blockage of communication between the ventricular system and the spinal canal: Disappearance of meningococci, scarcity of polymorphs, xanthochromia, increased albumen and especially globulin, coagulation, low tension, and difficulty in obtaining a free flow of fluid. W. D. CHAMBERS.

Herpes Zoster in Syphilitics [Le Zona des Syphilitiques]. (Fourn. Neur. et Psychiat. Belg., May, 1927.) Dujardin, B.

Reference is made to the previous work of Brown and the author himself on this subject, and to other more recent publications. He does not agree that the treatment of syphilis by arsenic has made herpes more common in syphilitics. He considers that it is a meningitis in syphilis (even latent) which renders the herpetic infection of the ganglia and the cord more liable to occur. He also states that in syphilitic cases the herpetic eruption most commonly occurs elsewhere than on the thorax and upper limbs.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

The Functional Significance of the Extra-pyramidal Systems. (Psychol. Bull., vol. xxiv, No. 4, April, 1927.) Rogers, F. T.

In this compressed review the author analyses the work that has been and is being done on efferent cerebral tracts other than the pyramidal, particularly the connections and functions of the corpus striatum. He marshals the evidence that in normal muscular activity a dual system is involved—the direct or pyramidal tract, and the more diffuse extra-pyramidal tracts—these being normally balanced and integrated. The various disorders (clinical or experimental) ascribed to interference with the striatum are described, the work of Wilson being given special prominence. A list of sixty-five references to the literature of the subject follows the paper.

W. D. CHAMBERS.