

could no more estimate power of association, memory, attention, or determine whether delusions were systematized or not, than he could effect an amputation at the hip.

Dr. White has very wisely devoted the first seven chapters of his work largely to general symptomatology and the examination of the insane. The second chapter is concerned in the synthetical formation of a definition of the term *insanity*. He says: "A perfect definition of insanity is impossible because our knowledge of the subject to be defined is not complete." His definition is: "Insanity is a disorder of the mind due to disease of the brain manifesting itself by a more or less prolonged departure from the individual's usual manner of thinking, feeling and acting, and resulting in a lessened capacity for adaptation to the environment." The value of this definition is only thoroughly realized when it is compared with seven other definitions from writers of note. There is nothing unconventional in the classification adopted. Melancholia, *per se*, is only dealt with as the *involution* type, other than this coming under the manic-depressive heading. He differentiates four separate varieties of dementia præcox: *i. e.*, (1) Heboidophrenia of Kahlbaum; (2) Hebephrenia; (3) Catatonia; and (4) Dementia paranoides, to which he adds (5), Mixed forms.

This little volume is not intended to appeal to the trained alienist, but, what is of far greater importance, it is a lucid, trenchant epitome for the reading of which many physicians would be greatly enriched.

ALFRED REGINALD ALLEN.

PROFESSOR G. VASSALE AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS LABORS IN THE FIELD OF THE INTERNAL SECRETIONS (Prof. G. Vassale och dennes betydelse, etc. Swedish Text). Herman Lundborg. Reprinted from Upsala Läkaref.-Förh., N. F. xiii, No. 6.

A brief digest of thirty-three papers published by the distinguished Italian pathologist (either alone or in collaboration with others) on the experimental pathology and therapeutics of the thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pituitary glands. A majority of these papers first appeared in neurological periodicals.

L. PEIRCE CLARK.

LÉHRBUCH DER NERVENKRANKHEITEN FÜR AERZTE UND STUDIERENDE. Von Prof. Dr. H. Oppenheim. Fifth German Edition. Verlag von S. Karger, Berlin, 1908.

One hardly knows how to review Oppenheim's textbook. There is so much to praise and practically nothing to condemn. Every neurologist is familiar with it. The fifth edition, like the fourth, is in two volumes; and it would seem as though the time would come when three volumes would be necessary to contain all the material of this work. For the first time references are given, and given with conciseness and yet as much thoroughness as the space allows. One is filled with amazement and admiration for the author's grasp on the literature; especially gratifying is the fair treatment of American and English authors, a statement that cannot be made regarding the product of all Continental writers.

The fifth edition contains much that is new, and especially striking are certain inserts. The most recent investigations are recorded, so that the book is fully up to date. The illustrations are mostly original; here and there a cut is found borrowed from some well known work, but the selection is always judiciously made. There is no need of describing the individual

chapters of this magnificent work; the book speaks for itself in a way that no description could. In the opinion of the reviewer there is not a better textbook on nervous diseases in any language. It is hoped that a new English edition of this fifth German edition may soon appear, as unfortunately many of our students are unable to appreciate the German work.

SPILLER.

A TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY. By Isaac Ott, A.M., M.D. Second Edition. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1907.

This work of eight hundred odd pages will be found to present the subject of physiology conventionally and not too deeply for the medical student. The part dealing with the nervous system seems to be more or less of a compilation of views garnered from such fountain-heads as Grünbaum and Sherrington, Morat and Edinger, and, as such, is presented in an orderly and lucid manner. Most of the cuts, in the section on the nervous system, are from well known works, and the comparatively few original illustrations leave much to be desired in draughtsmanship.

The standard of comparison in such a subject as physiology is, of necessity, high, and the best that can be said of Dr. Ott's work is that without being either original or exhaustive it is nevertheless safe.

ALFRED REGINALD ALLEN.

LES TRAITEMENTS DU GOITRE EXOPHTHALMIQUE. ACTUALITÉS MÉDICALES. Par Paul Sainton et Louis Delherm. J. B. Baillière et fils, Paris.

In this small brochure resembling others of the series, "Les Actualités Médicales," has been assembled the reports of Dr. Sainton and Delherm made before the French Congress of Medicine held in Paris in October, 1907.

They have styled the work "The Treatments" of Exophthalmic Goiter and not "The Treatment" since every patient with the disorder represents an individual problem.

While there is little new or startling in the brochure, it contains a brief but authentic resumé of modern knowledge on the subject.

JELLIFFE.

DIE NERVÖSEN ERKRANKUNGEN DES GESCHMACKES UND GERUCHES. Von Prof. Dr. L. v. Frankl-Hochwart. Zweite, Gänzlich umgearbeitete Auflage.

This second edition of Prof. v. Frankl-Hochwart's work on the disturbances of the sense of taste and smell will well repay careful reading on the part of the neurologist or physiologist. The bibliography is very ample and the development of the theme orderly and sequential.

The author shows no tendency to abandon the rather archaic and dubious theory that the taste fibers from the anterior two-thirds of the tongue, after passing up as far as the geniculate ganglion via the chorda tympani and facial, proceed to the second division of the trigeminal via the great superficial petrosal nerve and Meckel's ganglion and so through the Gasserian ganglion centralwards to the end stations in the pons and medulla oblongata.

Of course no discussion on this question could be complete or convincing unless due weight were given to Cushing's work. It is, therefore, interesting to note how ineffective Cushing's observations are made in their use by Frankl-Hochwart.