

PUBLICATIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED.

[Notes on a book under this heading do not preclude a subsequent review.]

Behandlung der angeborenen und erworbenen Gehirnkrankheiten mit Hilfe des Balkenstiches. Von Professor G. ANTON und Professor F. G. von BRAMANN. S. 188, mit 44 Abbildungen und 10 Tafeln. Berlin : Karger, 1913.

The authors recount five years' experience of the operation of "Balkenstich," on a large number of cases. As the free communication between the ventricles and the subdural spaces of the brain and cord, which is necessary for the proper circulation and nutrition of the brain, is often blocked, they have attempted to make an artificial communication through the corpus callosum. Through a small opening $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 cm. behind the coronal suture and the same distance from the middle line, a blunt round-ended cannula with lateral openings is introduced between the hemispheres and passed along the falx cerebri, through the corpus callosum into the anterior horn of the lateral ventricle. When the ventricle has been drained to the extent required, the opening into it is enlarged, and then, according to the authors, generally remains patent.

The effects of this operation in a large number of cases of hydrocephalus, cerebral tumours, hypophyseal tumours, epilepsy, &c., are fully described. No death or serious accident could be attributed to the operation in any of the fifty-three cases on which the authors performed it, and in all in whom the intracranial tension was increased, considerable relief was obtained.

Contribution à l'Étude anatomo-clinique des Monoplegies d'Origine corticale. Par le Dr. M. REGNARD. Pp. 216, with 12 plates. Paris : Vigot Frères, 1913.

This monograph is based on the examination of ten cases, supplemented by a diligent compilation of similar cases published by others; but unhappily these observations were not always abstracted from the original descriptions.

The methods of examination employed, especially in the investigation of sensation, appear to have been relatively complete, but the conclusions add little to our knowledge. The author concludes that the motor centres lie entirely in the precentral and paracentral convolutions, and the individual centres are segmentally arranged within them. The sensory zone occupies

the precentral gyrus, but also extends behind the fissure of Rolando and over part of the parietal lobe. This sensory zone is divided, as is the motor area, into centres corresponding to the different segments of the body, each of which lies at the same horizontal level as, and contiguous to, the corresponding motor centre.

Map-Scheme of the Sensory Distribution of the Fifth Nerve (Trigeminal) with its Ganglia and Connexions. By L. HEMINGTON PEGLER. London: Ballière, Tindall and Cox, 1913.

This is a most successful attempt to represent in a comprehensive though simple manner the relations and distribution of the various branches of the trigeminal nerve, and their connexions and anastomoses with other cranial nerves, and especially with the cervical sympathetic fibres.

In many instances simplified or modern titles have replaced older morphological terms, but the main object of the map is to illustrate the functional relationships of the various branches of the nerve, which must be considered in dealing with the etiology of the neuralgias, headaches and referred pains which so frequently result from irritation of its fibres. It is with this end in view too that insets are attached to the map, the one showing the central (bulbo-pontine) relations of trigeminal fibres to other afferent centres, and consequently the possible distribution of pain referred from them; the other, the relation of the peripheral distribution of the fibres of the three trigeminal divisions to that of the cervical roots.

The functional significance of the ganglia and fibres that make up the peripheral branches of the trigeminal nerve are indicated concisely but clearly on the map, and are dealt with more fully in the analytical tables of the anatomy and physiology of the nerve, and of its ganglia and connexions that are supplied with it.

The map, which measures 49 by 59 in., has evidently been designed with extraordinary care and accuracy, and incorporates the latest and most trustworthy knowledge on its subject. It will be found extremely valuable to anatomists in teaching the complicated relations of this nerve, and especially to clinicians in elucidating and studying the seat and extent of the referred headaches and pains so commonly due to affection of its fibres in the skull, face, mouth, nose or ears.

Arbeiten aus dem Pathologischen Institut der Universität Helsingfors,
herausgegeben von Professor E. A. HOMÉN. Neue Folge,
1ter Band, 1tes und 2tes Heft. Jena: Fischer, 1913.

These parts of the first volume of a new series edited by Homén contain a number of valuable papers, chiefly on the pathology and pathological anatomy of the nervous system.

Homén himself contributes an elaborate paper on the origin and develop-

ment of cerebral abscesses, and the nature of the cells that are found in and around them; Wallgren writes on the finer histological changes in poliomyelitis and insists on its inflammatory nature and the important part the glia-cells play in it; Fabritius has an interesting clinical and pathological paper on acute myelitis and spontaneous hæmatomyelia, and also describes the histological features of a case of sclerotic atrophy of one hemisphere of the brain; and Silfvast deals with the clinical and pathological characters of tumours at the base of the brain in the region of the hypophysis.

Handbuch der Nervenkrankheiten im Kindesalter. Von Professor L. BRUNS, Professor A. CRAMER, Professor TH. ZIEHEN. S. 980, mit 189 Abbildungen im Text und 3 Tafeln. Berlin: Karger, 1912.

The three authorities on nervous disease have described in this work all those affections of the nervous system which can occur in children. The sections vary greatly in completeness, some form short, admirably written monographs, others follow more the style of a text-book. This handbook will be of value to all who are interested in the diseases of childhood. It is profusely illustrated.

Leitfaden der Elektrodiagnostik und Elektrotherapie für Praktiker und Studierende. Von Dr. TOBY COHN. Vierte vollständig umgearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. S. 212, mit 6 Tafeln und 65 Abbildungen. Berlin: Karger, 1912.

This excellent little handbook has passed into a fourth edition, but though there are many additions, it retains its previous form. It forms a complete guide to the use of electricity in diagnosis and treatment.

Freud's Theories of the Neuroses. By Dr. EDUARD HITSCHMANN (Vienna). Translated by Dr. C. R. PAYNE. Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series, No. 17. Pp. 154. New York: Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases Publishing Company, 1913.

In this book the author gives a systematic exposition of the views of Professor Freud, who has revised the work throughout. Each chapter is devoted to one aspect of his psychology, especially in relation to functional nervous disorders. In many cases direct quotations are made from Freud's writing, but the whole gains a coherence which is of necessity absent from the originals. The translation is remarkably good, especially in view of the extreme difficulty of the German, and the complexity of the new terms introduced by Freud.

Ueber Nervöse Entartung. Von Professor Dr. OSWALD BUMKE. S. 120.
Berlin : Springer, 1912.

Kraepelin defines degeneration as the appearance of inherited qualities, which make it either difficult or impossible for the creature to attain the general aims of life. In mental medicine degeneration signifies a steadily increasing deterioration of the state of nervous health. These complicated questions are dealt with in this work from consideration of our present day knowledge, without special research or investigation of records, and the author concludes that Germany at any rate is not decadent. The general prevalence of functional nervous disorders is simply the result of the social conditions.

Acute Poliomyelitis. By Dr. IVAN WICKMAN (Stockholm), translated by Dr. J. W. J. A. M. MALONEY. Pp. 135. New York : Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases Publishing Company, 1913.

This is an excellent translation of Wickman's work noticed in *BRAIN*, vol. xxxv, p. 191. It is far the best summary account we possess of our knowledge of this disease. The plates are admirably reproduced.

Die Gesche Gottfried, eine Kriminalpsychologische Studie. Von Dr. L. SCHOLZ. S. 160, mit 6 Abbildungen. Berlin : Karger, 1913.

The heroine of this extraordinary story was born in 1785 in Bremen, and was executed in 1831, after having poisoned innumerable persons with arsenic. Among her victims were her parents, both her husbands, her children, her devoted servant and several of her most intimate friends. On one occasion she started for a visit provided with rat-paste. She was universally beloved, especially on account of the wonderful devotion she showed in nursing her victims. Her ambition was in every case to kill extremely slowly in order that she might have the pleasure of attending the sick. Documents and portraits are given, and this pamphlet should be in the hands of all who are interested in this remarkable group of criminals.

Dreams and Myths. By Dr. KARL ABRAHAM (Berlin). Translated by WILLIAM A. WHITE, M.D. Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series, No. 15. Pp. 74. New York : Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases Publishing Company, 1913.

Freud in a remarkable study analysed the Œdipus story in the light of his psychological views. This book is an attempt to carry such analysis further to explain the Prometheus myth and the stories of Moses, Samson, and other folk-heroes. The time is, however, scarcely ripe for so wide an extension into so uncertain a branch of anthropological knowledge. The translation is well carried out.