

BOOK REVIEWS

Aschner, Bernhard. PARACELSUS: SÄMTLICHE WERKE. Band I. Gustav Fischer, Jena. Mk. 35.

No figure of the beginning of the new era of medicine has been so grossly misjudged as that of Paracelsus. Born the year following Columbus' celebrated journey to the west his life was a series of adventures as enterprising and as novel as those of his latin discoverer, even if not so gloriously immortalized.

There have been many recent studies of Paracelsus which have served to do him high honor, but for the first time in this volume of Aschner's are his writings translated into idiomatic German of the present day. This new edition is taken from the Huser Edition of 1589-1591 and is a model of medicohistorical scholarship.

In a valuable preface Dr. Aschner gives a short biography of Paracelsus, catalogs his various works, discusses his medical, magical and philosophical ideas and offers an excellent bibliography.

Then follow the translations, Vol. I, on medical activities. Here are some of the most interesting features for the neuropsychiatrist: II. Opus Paramirum, On the Origin of Man, Characteristics of Man I and II, Buch Paragranum, containing the chief philosophical, astronomical, and alchemical writings.

There are a large number of other matters in this thick volume of 1000 pages not the least interesting of which are letters to and from Erasmus.

All lovers of medical history should possess this splendid edition of the works of this most original spirit of his day.

Alkan, Leopold. ANATOMISCHE ORGANKRANKHEITEN AUS SEELISCHER URSACHE. [Hippocrates Verlag, Stuttgart. Mk. 9.]

A series of works edited by Drs. Federn, Meng and Fahrencamp of which this is No. IV, has been issuing from the enterprising Hippocrates Verlag which would follow the ancient Greek tradition of a medicine which is a meld of natural science and art.

The present representative is happily chosen since it would search for those factors in the psychical life which can bring about actual somatic changes on the basis of the thwarted or deflected instinctual cravings of the human being.

Johannes Müller brought into high relief the saving natural science observation of specific receptor activities upon which the modern stimulus and response behavior of the organism can be accurately studied. Psychical stimuli can bring about definite organ responses of such a nature that when they become irreversible, one can speak of organic disease upon a psychogenic basis. There is no

doubt about the accuracy of this conception, and this work with many another devotes itself to the working out of the idea.

The author begins with a consideration of the psychoneuroses and outlines the numerous reversible organ disturbances, badly called "functional." A chapter on the diagnosis of the psychoneuroses follows. That they have their own laws is quite understandable and the physician who is compelled to make a diagnosis of a psychoneurosis by exclusion is badly trained in psychiatry. The general therapy of the psychoneuroses follows.

The second half of the work deals with special situations. The vascular system disorders are first discussed. Hypertonia and cardiac disturbances are well covered. Then the gastrointestinal tract is discussed; cardiospasm, gastric and duodenal ulcers, atonic states, and thus through the bodily organs in approximately 140 pages.

The general development and orderly working out of the theme is excellent. One can only suggest that the works of other than German studies in this field should not have been neglected. Jelliffe is the only American author cited, and incorrectly quoted, while the work of Lewis and Kempf, in the reviewer's opinion the equal if not superior to any actual analytical work done with organic disorders anywhere else, is not even mentioned. Medicine is the last place where one should find chauvinism.

Böhle, Wilhelm. DIE KÖRPERFORM ALS SPIEGEL DER SEELE.
[B. G. Teubner, Leipzig. Mk. 12.40.]

One often wonders why mankind is so much interested in the question what manner of man is the other fellow? At all events ever since records have existed man has always been guessing about his neighbor's inside processes and from Moses to Kretschmer such processes have been referred to some organ or organs and in some way related to their shape, size or form. From the lean and hungry Cassius that was looked at askance by a celebrated Roman to the pyknic or leptosome of the Marburg clinic, the personality has had its hoped for nature projected onto the bodily form.

In this beautifully printed and richly illustrated volume of some 230 pages Dr. Böhle would offer a system of physiognomy: a system of fixed relations between inner personality states and the shape, size and manner of fashioning of the face and skull. Characterology, psychological types, as represented in facial and cranial form makes up the subject of this very interesting book, valuable even if one has one's reservations concerning the validity of the conception, or even further, believing that the conception is quite valid whether one's judgments are not so hampered by subjectivism in the estimations of character traits as to render them worthless or, perhaps better said, quite incomplete and hence misleading.

The opening chapter presents an excellent historical résumé from Aristotle to Gunther through Lavater, Gall, Carus and Kretschmer. The unity of the organism is emphasized, Kretschmer's older classification, pyknic, athletic, asthenic then outlined. A difficult chapter would deal with the "soul" as made up of the intellectual, affective

and will categories. Then the longest chapter in the book discusses the profile, the back of the head, etc., in not far from phrenologically oriented relationships of brain form and skull type. This is a thoughtful and difficult chapter.

Three constitutional types are outlined: the feeling type, the movement type, and the sensory type, from which many mixtures occur with the Kretschmer body types as the form variables.

Man and Woman, Constitution, Race and Folk Characteristics then follow.

It is all very interesting even though we confess a profound skepticism about all this type of abstract rationalized generalization about this, that, or another person be it Moses or Calvin Coolidge; especially false and even vicious when one comes to the author's ideas of what he calls races or people, English, German, Italian, or French, and we are told that one of these is "egoistic," and "don't give a whoop about anyone else," another is—why go on, since everybody has known that people are pretty much alike inside and that chauvinistic window dressing is an amusing bit of camouflage. This is all so terribly "Babbity" that one wonders if the whole type psychology is not a mass of crude rationalizations of much amusement for the masses but hardly yet a discipline in the realm of science. This is the reflection of one who once an asthenic, then athletic and later a pyknic; who at periods is a "gemuths mensch," again a movement type and with certain environments—moonlight, the Philharmonic or the Spring Academy Exhibition, an "empfindungs mensch," finds plenty of occasion to agree with and to differ from alternately almost every statement in the book. When things are so possible of ambivalent setting it looks like "window dressing."

Armstrong-Jones, Robert. THE GROWTH OF THE MIND. [Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh. Sixpence.]

A delightfully written 29-page brochure, a Henderson Trust Lecture, which deals chiefly historically with the development of the idea of what may be called "mind." It is quite naïve, possibly pitched to the popular audience, but certainly when leaving history proper, quite uninformed, misleading, and even mischievous in its misunderstanding of certain movements in contemporary psychology and psychiatry. It is strange how uninformed some people can be about what is going on in the world of supposedly their own "specialty." Maybe one should blame the nature of the necessary receiver rather than the transmitter. Let us hope so.

Loban, Joy M. A TEXTBOOK OF NEUROLOGY. [The Bunn-Loban Publishing Company, Denver, Colorado.]

This work is dedicated to Dr. Chas. R. Bunn, whether of the publishing company does not appear, nor other data as to whether this textbook, by a chiropractor, for the chiropractors, from the chiropractors, is just this and nothing more. At all events there are 600 and more pages of it. The first third contains a résumé of the anatomy of the nervous system, to which is added a short section on

embryology. The second section discusses the physiology of the nervous system. This is followed by a semeiology of motor and sensory disturbances, their clinical diagnosis, and some desultory discussion of peripheral organs and philosophy, a fairly correct, if crude, and a bit old-fashioned collection of well known data in anatomy, physiology and clinical medicine. On the whole one might say it is better than might be expected.

Zenker, G. TRAUMDEUTUNG UND TRAUMFORSCHUNG. [Astra-Verlag, H. Timm, Leipzig. Mk. 4.]

Another book on Interpretation of Dreams! Thus the author would begin in semi-apologetic strain for elaborating what he states has been done so often and so well before, and yet, he has a definite goal in this offering.

Inasmuch as the Astra-Verlag is identified, more or less, with the publishing of works related to the "occult," Zenker would state his book is not in this genre. His work will follow the genius of Freud into the dream world where there are still innumerable riddles ready waiting to be unraveled. In this quest the author is not so certain, notwithstanding the essentially sound foundations laid down by Freud in this field, that there are not other modes of research, subsumed by him under the head of parapsychology and he speaks a word in his final section for a more sympathetic hearing for many of the so-called occult phenomena, such as "telepathy," "second sight," etc., etc.; not much of a word, but still this excellent brochure of 131 pages, which gives a very good résumé of the general psychoanalytic conceptions of the dream work, would advocate the desirability of listening in on these phenomena which to him are realities and as yet not explained. In his literature the work of Hitschmann in the very field of his thought does not seem to be listed.

Krisch, H. DIE ORGANISCHEN EINSCHLIESSLICH DER EXOGENEN REAKTIONSTYPEN. [S. Karger, Berlin. Mk. 13.20.]

Dr. Krisch, Oberarzt with Forster at Greifswald, would here essay an Introduction to a Psychiatric Syndrome System on a Clinical-Biological Basis.

Following an outlining of the symptom-complex conception rather than the disease-entity one, he then takes up a discussion of general ideas relative to causes, symptoms, disease entities, localization, endogen-exogen ideas, premorbid personalities, age and sex.

Then follows his reaction types: (a) encephalasthenic (neurasthenic) syndrome, (b) organic consciousness changes, (c) delirious syndromes, (d) psychomotor syndromes, and (e) affective syndromes. This chapter is completed by the further consideration of affective symptoms, paranoid reactions, organic personality changes, dementias, mental defective forms.

A fourth chapter deals with disorders of single functions: (a) perplexity, (b) flight of ideas, (c) lack of initiative, (d) memory difficulties, and the whole closes with some theoretical considerations.

We have enjoyed reading this fragment, for it is as yet but frag-

mentary. We would like to see more "meaning" outlined and less "description." For us an interpretation, motive psychiatry is the greatest need. What lies back of these confusions, perplexities, memory defects, dementias, etc.? Just to describe how a man jumps around because he has a brain tumor does not mean much, except for surgical-localizing purposes. Dementia, as here described, may not be dementia at all; simply inability on the part of the hearer to understand the regressive symbolism as Schilder has well shown. In a book on reaction types, one would like to have learned more about "what" the patients were reacting to. This wish to see something else in the monograph, however, is not a criticism of its many excellencies. It is a different point of view which, after all, is not what the book is about. Why expect diamonds when one is offered pearls?

Schulhof, Fritz. SCHIZO-PHRENIE, SCHIZO-BULIE. [Franz Deuticke, Vienna. Mk. 4.]

Whereas modern philological and psychological students are not quite certain just what the Greeks meant by "phren," it has come to stand, in contemporary psychiatry (Bleuler), for split "mind," mind here being thought of in the frame of "Denkpsychologie." The authors stir up a bit of the ancient dust of disturbances of "intelligence." has some difficulty in pinning down what "verschrobenheit" may be and prints in large type **Ich Denke: Das Gefühl vom Ich: Ich-Denke-Gefühl**, leading to the thought that **Schizo-phrenie** = loss of the **Ich-Denke-Gefühl**; that it is not any more the "something" in himself but something outside of himself that thinks. Now change the black face type and put in **Ich-Will** and **Ich-Will-Gefühl**, and we are led to the idea of the **schizo-bulie** as a contrasting type—catatonic in general, to the schizophrenic. This is but a caricature of this very interesting brochure of 168 pages, which brings up a lot of interesting points for discussion as to the nature of the schizophrenic psychological processes.

Dennett, Mary Ware. WHO'S OBSCENE. [The Vanguard Press, New York.]

The ridiculous spectacle of witch hunting still prowls about freely in our midst. The cap and gown of the law is but slightly changed from the cowl and robe of the monk and the spirit of intolerance is as rife as ever, even if more subtly masked and more safely entrenched. The pusillanimous pruriency, skulking cowardice and itching palms of professional propagandists, organized in former centuries to snatch people from the devil's claws, have their ghastly doubles still skulking in the body politic.

Hence this book which would record how a high-minded woman of the twentieth century, desirous of imparting the simple and natural facts of human nature to her children, and thence to others, could be treated, almost burned to death as in the days of the Inquisition, by a combination of sap-heads, stampeded by unconscious psycho-neurotics who, afraid to know of their own perverted impulses, project them upon others, and wear the laurel wreaths of hypocritical

reformers, to "save the youth of the nation," who in the main are much healthier than their would-be reformers.

This book again indicates the inside mental machinery that again for the millionth time shows that the man who is fanatical in his actions to reform others is one most in need of help himself.

Hesnard, A. PSYCHOLOGIE HOMOSEXUELLE. 8th Edit. [Libraire Stock, Paris.]

We have had occasion to commend this small work to the attention of our readers as one of the most direct and understanding discussions of this extremely complex situation. Percolating in larger or smaller quantities throughout the personality of every human being are attributes of the opposite sex. Much of the possibility of a stable social binding is due to this fortunate fact, especially if the homosexual component is psychosexually sublimated. Dr. Hesnard, known for many years as a collaborator with Professor Regis and a neuropsychiatrist of note in France, has revised this work and as it now stands it is a thoroughly authoritative and valuable small treatise upon the dynamic psychology of the homosexual.

Wimmer, August. CONTRIBUTIONS DU LABORATOIRE PSYCHIATRIQUE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ ET DE LA CLINIQUE NEURO-PSYCHIATRIQUE DE COPENHAGUE. Vol. V. [Levin & Munksgaard Forlag, Copenhagen.]

Neuropsychiatrists are fortunate in again being able to find the astonishingly rich and valuable collection of more recent studies from Professor Wimmer's Copenhagen clinic brought together in one volume for reference and study. This is the fifth series of these that have been issued and again bear witness to the alert and fertile spirit of research that activates this clinic. There are 38 papers covering a wide field in neuropsychiatry, Dr. Ehlers opening with a paper on ophthalmoplegic migraine and Dr. Winther closing with a study on intracranial tension and new methods of measuring it. In between is a splendid assortment of studies, only a few of which can be picked out. Krabbe on myopathies, and the parietal eye, Neel on larvated forms of encephalitis, Schmidt on nicotine as suicide material, and on Wilson's disease; Wimmer, 13 papers, torsion spasm, amyotrophies in encephalitis, syphilitic paranoid psychoses, criminality and encephalitis among them.

Again we would congratulate Professor Wimmer on his showing and commend this volume to neuropsychiatrists.

Deutsch, Helene. PSYCHOANALYSE DER NEUROSEN. [Internationaler Psychoanalytischer Verlag, Wien.]

Dr. Helene Deutsch of Vienna here presents in a 200-page volume eleven lectures delivered before the Vienna Psychoanalytic Institute. She opens with a very instructive paper on the "Rôle of the Actual Conflict in Neurosis Formation." This is followed by four clinical discussions of Hysteria, then three on Phobias, diffuse anxiety, cat phobia, chicken phobia, and agoraphobia. The Com-

pulsion Neuroses are illustrated by compulsion ceremonials and rituals and compulsive thinking. The last lecture deals with melancholia and depressed states in general.

It is a pleasure to read these extremely lucid and well worked out cases. So much psychoanalytic literature of late has dealt with theoretical problems, important though they be, but a return to clinical studies and case presentation as of old, is distinctly welcome, especially when done so well. Furthermore, it may be noted that the newer dynamic and economic metapsychological conceptions have not been neglected in her case presentations.

Her chapters on compulsive rituals, behavior and thinking are especially valuable, since experience has shown how difficult these compulsive states are to understand or to treat with any degree of success.

Tilney, Frederick. THE MASTER OF DESTINY. A BIOGRAPHY OF THE BRAIN. [Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., New York. \$4.00.]

In a very delightful foreword Dr. Riggs introduces for the reader the theme which Dr. Tilney so fascinatingly portrays, that of the development of man upon the earth and of the unfolding of those structures that make man what he is as the fashioner of his own destiny and the chief creator of human weal or woe.

There was a time, as the geologist looks back, many millions of years ago, when the highest of living creatures then existing were in danger of extinction because no adequate provision was being made in their structure whereby the organizing faculty of the nervous system could grow without threatening the processes of nutrition. By a happy bit of twisting the danger was avoided and brain began its upward and onward march. This history and its prehistory is sketched by Dr. Tilney in the opening chapter of his book which carries us in rapid strides from the lowliest plants to the first important animals with a backbone and a chance for free development of brain. This took six million years more or less and is told in twenty-four pages.

The story from fish to man is next told not so rapidly. Here can be read in the gradual development of the brain structure the most convincing evidence of the slow advancing evolution that led to man. And here the proof that man is such a product of evolution is most convincingly shown. The practical significance of evolution and the witnesses of such a process as seen in the skull, the embryo, our various sense organs, and finally the sense combiner-organizer, the human nervous system starting from the fishes, through the giant reptiles, the transitions to mammals, how, when and why the warm blooded animal appeared, what led to the extinction of those with unprogressive brains, there are sketched most entertainingly in this second chapter.

Then man appears, anywhere from fifteen million years ago down to the most conservative limit, half a million years ago. The nature of the brain of this primitive man is fascinatingly outlined

in the story of extinct forms of man: the Javan Ape man, the Pilttdown Dawn man of England, the Neander Valley man—and the Old Stone Age man, Mousterian, Aurignacian, Cro-Magnan. Then the New Stone Age man.

Dr. Tilney in chapter four deals with the contrasts of the poet's vision of the Garden of Eden and the scientist's poem of the progress of evolution. The two modes of trying to solve the old question where did man come from are here very well outlined. Primitive ideas of savages, which finally led up to the symbolic interpretation of the Hebrew poets are set side by side with the actual reality processes. A most intriguing chapter is that on the birth place and early beginnings of man. Was it Africa, Europe, or Asia? Asia now is in the ascendant.

Now Dr. Tilney more definitely moves over from the anthropological to the anatomical side of the story and sketches in the same delightful and easily comprehended manner the various brain forms from the lowest of the monkeys to the best kind of brain that all would like to possess—Tunneyian, Einsteinian, Paderewskian, Rockefellerian, Barrymorian or what not according to taste [Reviewer's interpolation]. From lemurs, tarsians and marmosets through the howlers, baboons, gibbons and orang-outangs, the correlation in behavior and brain structure is outlined. Almost "human" is the behavior and the brain of gorillas and this work devotes much space to this phase of his subject, so wonderfully elaborated in the smaller works of the gestalt psychologist, Kohler, and in the monumental treatise by the "Yerkes" on the "Great Apes."

All this is in the first two-thirds of this 343 page book. The last 100 pages are devoted to man and his brain.

This is a most stimulating popular account of the most important single situation worthy of man's attention, namely how he came by the instrument that enabled him to get here at all and how to hold on with any degree of comfort and happiness now that he is here. One could hope that such a book might be as widely read as many an inferior work, which we will not mention, caught up by the public because so little brain is needed to grasp it. When one reads that millions of copies of some cheap thriller are eagerly grabbed up from soda water fountain drug stores, one can but smile and repeat the old story "What fools these mortals be." May the day soon pass when such cheap retreats into phantasy will have less power and that works of the reality quality of Dr. Tilney's shall have come to have a large place in the world's attention. Then we shall know that the evolution of man's most important possession is still on its upward pathway and has not become sidetracked and subject to regression and extinction as were once the mighty mastodons of bygone eons.

Whitehead, Alfred N. PROCESS AND REALITY. [The Macmillan Company, New York.]

A hard book to read and still more difficult to review. Inasmuch as the author would offer a final interpretation of the (an) ultimate way in which cosmological problems are to be conceived it naturally