

country. Whilst the plan of the first edition is strictly adhered to, each section bears abundant evidence that the author has been at considerable pains to incorporate in the work all that he regards as of material importance in recent observations. The period that has elapsed since the publication of the third edition (1895) has, however, been so extraordinarily productive that his task was certainly a most formidable one. Although there can be few better able to judge than Professor Obersteiner of what facts in the vast storehouse of our knowledge of the modern normal and pathological anatomy of the central nervous system are most deserving of being included in an introduction to the study of the subject, many of his readers who are in a position to criticise must feel strongly that he has at times hardly appreciated the importance of certain recent observations and teaching. To mention only one of many examples that might be given, in the sub-section upon the types of morbid change that affect the nerve-fibres, there is no adequate recognition of the fundamental distinction, so clearly drawn by Vassale, between primary and secondary degeneration. Of the work, taken as a whole, it should suffice to say that the high standard of the previous editions is fully maintained. W. FORD ROBERTSON.

Studii anatomici e sperimentali sulla Fisiopatologia della Glandola pituitaria (Hypophysis Cerebri) [Anatomical and Experimental Studies upon the Physiology and Pathology of the Pituitary Gland]. Dott. ARNOLDO CASELLI. Reggio nell' Emilia: Tipografia di Stefano Calderini e Figlio, 1900. Pp. 228, 33 figures in text.

Special interest attaches to this book from the fact that its author died while it was being carried through the press. The circumstances are briefly indicated by Professor Tamburini in a sympathetic preface. From an obituary notice in the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, we further learn that Dr. Caselli, who had only reached the age of twenty-seven at the time of his death, had devoted two years of almost continuous labour in the Psychiatric Institute of Reggio-Emilia to the researches embodied in this monograph, which he successfully presented as his *tesi di libera docenza* in the University of Rome. Whilst these circumstances will naturally stimulate interest in it, the book is quite capable of standing upon its own intrinsic merits. It is, beyond any question, a work of very high scientific value, even though it leaves still unsolved many important problems regarding the physiology and pathology of the pituitary body. It contains a record of a long series of most brilliant experimental observations, planned, carried out, and interpreted with conspicuous ability. The work of previous observers is fully considered, and often very ably criticised. Successive sections deal with the subjects of the anatomy of the hypophysis, its ontogenesis and phylogenesis, physiology and pathology, functional relations to other organs, morphological alterations in man, organo-therapeutics, and excision in man. The work closes with a statement of the author's general conclusions. Some of the more important of these are as follows:—The anterior lobe has many structural analogies to the

thyroid. The posterior lobe contains no nervous elements, or at most, only rudimentary ones. Complete abolition of the functional activity of the hypophysis (in dogs and cats) causes, in the first instance, slowing of respiration and acceleration of the pulse, then mental depression and disturbance of movement, characterised by arching of the back and spastic gait, without tonic or clonic contractions of the limbs; afterwards progressive cachexia sets in, and the animal dies comatose. The cachexia is due to intoxication, and the mental depression to alterations in the cerebral tissues brought about by this intoxication; the motor disturbances depend upon similar lesions in the spinal cord. Extirpation of the hypophysis gives rise to diabetes, but only through injury to the part of the brain in its proximity. Extirpation of the hypophysis modifies the course of the tetany of parathyroidectomy, causing the motor disturbances to be replaced by paralysis, which is soon followed by coma and death. In dogs deprived of their thyroid gland, extirpation of the hypophysis accelerates the course of the cachexia without altering its fundamental character. The hypophysis appears to be in certain respects analogous to the thyroid, but the one organ cannot fulfil the functions of the other. Structural alterations of the hypophysis which cause increase in its size give rise to disturbances dependent upon injury to the optic nerves and upon raising of the intracranial pressure. Certain morphological alterations, consisting partially in hypertrophy of the organ, give rise to acromegaly. Pituitary extract is applicable as a therapeutic agent in cases of mental disease in which there is depression.

W. FORD ROBERTSON.

Ueber Kunst und Künstler [On Art and Artists]. Von D. J. MÖBIUS.
Mit 10 Abbildungen. Leipzig, 1901. Crown 8vo, pp. 296.
Price 6s.

This is an inquiry into the nature and origin of talent or special capacities. In a volume published a year ago Möbius has maintained that the talent for mathematics is inborn, and is not proportional to the other intellectual faculties, and that it is associated with a large development of the upper part of the temples. In the work under review Möbius endeavours to show that Gall's organography has been unduly neglected. He devotes the first part of his essays on music, art, poetry, and mimicry to an exposition of Gall's views upon these particular talents, which he follows by critical remarks of his own. Möbius's advocacy will appear fresh to many readers, for the generation of physiologists who thought that it was worth their while to argue against phrenology has wholly passed away. It is a controversy which we should be loth to revive. As Blumenbach said of Gall's system, it has much that is true, and much that is new; but the true is not new, and the new is not true. We agree with Möbius that Gall made an excellent classification of the mental faculties. It was complete and exhaustive, but when he arranged the whole of his thirty-three faculties under the outer vault of the skull, where they might be felt as "bumps," so that a man's character could be read off by feeling