

Book Reviews

Southard, E. E., and Solomon, H. C. NEUROSYPHILIS. Modern Systematic Diagnosis and Treatment. Presented in One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Case Histories. W. M. Leonard, Boston.

Three distinct tendencies are at work in the scientific field at the present time. First there is the constant tendency to broaden any one territory, which at once leads over into the next factor. This is the growing unity which thus manifests itself between the various fields of interest and research and which maintains itself even in the intensifying of such interest and research in any one field. This intensification is the third tendency, while underlying and infusing all is that of a dynamic principle at work which explains why science must follow any one of these three trends or all of them together. Something, it is recognized, is unfolding itself and expressing itself in all these directions and only by pursuing it in all these ways can it be discovered and brought under human control. If it is health and efficiency then humanity needs more of it, and a better grasp of it. If the matter for study is the development of a disease process, dynamism working in a wrong direction, none the less but more must such tendency be sought out and followed along these lines, according to these designated principles, in order to bring such back into the ways of health.

Just such a work is undertaken in the publication of this book before us. The authors realize that in the increasing extent of the field of syphilography which the various branches of medicine—and sociology too—are opening up, there is a growing need for more definite study upon the subject and practical application along special lines. And yet in so doing they have thoroughly utilized the principle of the dynamism of the disease force that finds for itself a multitude of forms of expression and a merging of one form into another. The problem of neurosyphilis becomes therefore no hard and fast set of diagnostic rules or therapeutic ones, but one of a wide variety of manifestations, varying widely in degree and kind through all the range of neurologic or psychiatric symptoms which neurosyphilis in its broadest conception can present. And the very practical survey which the cases are given here in this report of actual histories provides also a more varied and hopeful prognosis in the treatment of cases, even of general paresis, and particularly in the social service to be more extensively rendered in prophylactic and curative work.

The content of the book is in the main a report of case histories, 137 in number, most of which have come under the actual observation of the

authors. Some of these are from the psychopathic hospital, which forms the gathering place of a wide range of cases in variety and degree and therefore furnishes just the material that comes before the general practitioner, for whom primarily the book is written. Some patients are from private practice and there are also longer standing committed cases. Illustrations are also added from autopsied patients and a chapter has been inserted reporting the presence of neurosyphilis in war material.

The arrangement of the book is a valuable one and is especially adapted to practical reference and direct appraisal and application of its contents. Its matter is presented case by case with the discussion briefly appended to each case statement in the form often of pointed questions which demand consideration. Each case is moreover pithily summarized in striking form at the top of each initial page, with a key to these cases included in the summary. A series of charts interspersed through the book presents in very graphic form the leading facts in clinical pictures, forms of treatment, etc. There are copious illustrations, clinical and anatomical. The case histories are arranged in chapters which constitute in general in their grouping the chief trends which neurosyphilis follows, systems of diagnosis, puzzles and errors which appear and the question of treatment. Small space is given to the medico-legal aspect, as this is deemed worthy of separate treatment, and as has been said, attention is paid to neurosyphilis and the war.

The book is so eminently practical in all its details and at the same time gives such emphatic consideration to the broader, more comprehensive aspects of the subject of neurosyphilis and its practical issues, that it can be recommended as worthy of individual study and of practical application by each physician who must meet these problems. It also should, as its authors desire and hope, urge forward the interest in neurosyphilis and help in the advance of psychiatry into general practice. They also urge the intensive attitude toward treatment, remembering that the treatment for neurosyphilis is the same as that for syphilis, but that it must be pushed harder. They also insist upon routine application of syphilis tests to every case of neurosis or psychosis.

JELLIFFE.

Loeb, Jacques. FORCED MOVEMENTS, TROPISMS, AND ANIMAL CONDUCT. Monographs on Experimental Biology. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London.

One of the most promising signs of the times in the scientific world is the growing unity between psychology and the physical sciences. Such a unity would have been claimed perhaps at all times, but it was not assured practically nor was it well maintained so long as the purposes of these branches of scientific investigation seemed to cross and contradict each other. Now as investigation and experiment become more and more exact they bring a greater accuracy and definiteness also in hy-