It is an excellent performance and is to be specially commended to all students of medicine who wish to get at a biological view of the vegetative nervous system.

The reviewer still uses the term vegetative although the author rejects it on the puerile ground, in which he apparently follows Langley, that the word vegetative applies only to plant life. Why not reject sympathetic because it refers to "sympathies"? Vegetative really means referring to growth and nutrition and this is what the vegetative system regulates.

Guillaume states this, and uses the phrase "organo-végétative," even though Langley denies that what he prefers to call the autonomic system has nothing to do with metabolism. Aside from such a minor verbal obscurity the author treats of his "sympathetic system" as a vegetative system, coördinating the body as a whole in its metabolic activities.

We have only one criticism of this really excellent work: that is its failure to duly emphasize the great importance and close relationships which exist between the vegetative system and the symbolic activities of the human being as manifested in the struggle for individual existence and phyletic evolution.

It is an extremely readable and suggestive volume and we feel assured that a third edition will be needed, which, should it show as much evolution as has this edition from the first, promises to be a masterpiece.

Pilcz, Alexander. LEHRBUCH DER SPEZIELLEN PSYCHIATRIE, SECHSTE VERBESSERTE AUFLAGE. [Franz Deuticke, Leipzig and Wien.]

This excellent textbook has found enduring favor since its first edition in 1904. In many respects it remains practically as it was in its third or prewar stage. The author says that the war brought few really novel ideas, but it did deepen and widen the psychiatric grasp upon the hosts of problems which neuropsychiatry had been working upon in the past few decades. The importance of unconscious factors was much more clearly comprehended and elucidated.

Pilcz groups his material as follows: I. Acute Functional Psychoses, including (a) Melancholia, (b) Mania, (c) Amentia and acute delirium. II. Chronic Functional Psychoses: (a) Paranoia, (b) Periodic Psychoses. III. Alcoholic Psychoses. IV. Dementing Processes: (a) Paresis, (b) Senile Dementia, (c) Anteriosclerotic Dementia, (d) Psychoses with Brain Disease, (e) Dementia Precox. V. Thyroid Psychoses. VI. Psychoses associated with Major Neuroses: (a) Epileptic and Hysterical Psychoses. VII. Congenital Defect States, and XIII, Psycho-inferiority.

Excellent descriptive accounts enlarge upon these formulations. They are concise, yet full enough to do justice to the subject for the purpose for which the book is written. In most respects the general attitude is Kraepelian, although Pilcz does not sink his individuality behind an imitative following of the Munich school. At the same time we find a little too marked an insistence upon "diseases" *per se*.

as contrasted with a more plastic comprehension of process trends. This didactic form may be best for student purposes. We doubt it, but that is a matter of opinion. All in all, this new edition makes an excellent showing and is to be heartily recommended.

Müller, L. R. UEBER DIE ALTERSCHÄTZUNG BEI MENSCHEN.
[Julius Springer, Berlin, Mk. 33.]

L. R. Müller, who in recent years has offered much profitable work on the vegetative system, has here collected in a small monograph of 62 pages an extremely suggestive and striking series of observations on the signs of getting old. It is his inaugural dissertation to the chair of internal medicine and director of the medical clinic at Erlangen.

It forms part of a series of studies concerning the relationship of the metabolic activities of the individual to age. The estimation of the span of human life, the judgments of the age of a race, the causes of growing old and the cell changes in the aging, these are contributory studies which are woven into this very careful series of observations.

Changes in the skeleton, in the fatty deposits, in the skin, the eyes, ears, the mouth, the hands, the genitals, are all described and extremely well illustrated by excellent photographs extremely well reproduced. Then follow the discussion of the topics here indicated in the opening of the paragraph. Not the least interesting of the topics discussed all too briefly is that dealing with the changes in the "soul life" of the aging individual.

Altogether a very fine piece of work, short and clear, and well worth while.

N. B.—All business communications should be made to *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 64 West 56th St., New York.

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