UEBER DIE KREUZUNG DER ZENTRALEN NERVENBAHNEN UND IHRE BEZIEHUNGEN ZUR PHYLOGENESE DES WIRBELTHIERKÖRPERS. Alexander Spitzer. Franz Deuticke, Leipzig and Wien.

Wundt, Flechsig, Ramon y Cajal and others have asked the question, why in higher vertebrates there should be a decussation of nervous tracts. At the present time no one has answered it satisfactorily, hence the author takes up the general question, why certain higher nerve centers are either entirely or in greater part connected with the periphery by crossed fibers in the depths of the central nervous system.

He first takes up the embryological evidence, showing by homologies that the neuroporic process in *Amphioxus* and the infundibular appendage in *Craniotes* argues that the brain axis ends in these forms in the infundibulum.

The embryological significance of the hypophysis is thoroughly dealt with and its relation to the gastro-intestinal system carefully followed. Considerable space is also devoted to the discussion of the general laws of phylogenesis and ontogenesis, heredity and environment, in their relations to the nervous system.

He then takes up the question of the development of the spinal cord, and shows how it has come gradually to occupy a position behind the intestines instead of in front, and how it has become twisted 180° in order to do this. This is the general line of the author's explanation. The work is extremely interesting, and for the anatomist and embryologist indispensable.

JELLIFFE.

LEHRBUCH DER NERVENKRANKHEITEN. Von G. Aschaffenburg, Köln; H. Curschmann, Mainz; R. Finkelnburg, Bonn; R. Gaupp, Tübingen; C. Hirsch, Göttingen; Fr. Jamin, Erlangen; J. Ibrahim, München; Fedor Krause, Berlin; M. Lewandowsky, Berlin; H. Liepmann, Berlin; L. R. Müller, Augsburg; Fr. Pineles, Wien; F. Quensel, Leipzig; M. Rothmann, Berlin; H. Schlesinger, Wien; S. Schönborn, Heidelberg; H. Starck, Karlsruhe; H. Steinert, Leipzig; Herausgegeben von Dr. Hans Curschmann, Dirigierendem Arzt der Innern Abteilung des St. Rochus Hospitals in Mainz. Mit 289 in den Text gedruckten Abbildungen. Berlin, Verlag von Julius Springer.

The combination text-book idea appears with marked accent in this most recent German text-book. Fortunately the contributors are all men of the very first rank, and their combined efforts, with the aid of a liberal and appreciative publisher, has given us a singularly attractive and valuable work on nervous diseases.

One feature of the work is worth calling special attention to. It is largely the work of younger men, and the different parts have been written by those who have paid special attention to the diseases in question. This helps to render the work more authoritative.

The work is for students and practitioners, and specialists can read the chapter by Rothmann on the physiology and pathology of the cord, and that by Liepmann on the physiology of the brain, with profit. They are exceptionally good and modern. Singularly enough, the cerebellum has been entirely omitted.

We have called attention to the two chapters which have attracted us the most; the others are as follows: The opening chapter on diagnosis is

by Schönborn of Heidelberg. This is excellent. Then follows Diseases of the Peripheral Nerves, by Steinert of Leipzig, giving a long, full discussion of over one hundred pages. The Diseases of the Spinal Cord are treated by Schönborn, by Jamin of Erlangen, Schlesinger, Finkelnburg of Bonn, and Müller of Augsburg.

The editor, Dr. Hans Curschmann, takes up the myopathies in another chapter; Hugo Starck treats the meningeal disorders, Lewandowsky, encephalitis, Hirsh of Göttingen, circulatory disorders, while Gaupp takes paresis and epilepsy.

A separate chapter on the Organic Diseases of Children, by Ibrahim, of Munich, calls for special attention. Chorea, tetany, tremors, etc., are treated under the head of Hyperkinetic Disorders by Pineles. Aschaffenberg adopts the term psychasthenic states, and includes under it hysteria, neurasthenia, traumatic neuroses, and obsessions and fixed ideas. It is a forceful, if somewhat loose, chapter. L. R. Müller has a short discussion on Diseases of the Sympathetic Nervous System, and Curschmann follows with another on the Vasomotor and Trophic Disturbances. Quensel considers the intoxications, and finally Krause gives an excellent chapter, all too short, on Operative Therapy of the Nervous System.

The technical features of this book call for special commendation. The printing and illustrations are superb, and the general make up, binding, etc., leaves nothing to be desired. It is a very creditable volume from every point of view.

JELLIFFE.

DIE KLINISCHE STELLUNG DER ANGSTPSYCHOSEN. Von Dr. Edm. Forster. Oberarzt an der psychiatrischen Klinik der Kgl. Charité und Privatdozent an der Universität Berlin. S. Karger, Berlin.

Forster is largely a follower of Wernicke and has here given an exceptionally brilliant study of this author's anxiety psychosis in a monograph of some 260 pages.

After first outlining Wernicke's original description as given in 1894 the author gives a short résumé of the general development and modifications which the concept has undergone.

He then enquires into the worth of the concept, should Wernicke's Angstpsychose occupy a separate clinical position deferring his answer until he has presented his general observations made during a three years' stay in the psychiatric clinic at Berlin.

An historical essay on the general subject of melancholia then follows. It is an interesting and valuable summary, although slightly scrappy and not well woven together; frequently words are taken as unchangeable symbols, and the historical perspective somewhat obscured.

The author's own observations follow, with very complete minute histories. These are divided into ten groups.

The author's general conclusions point to the fact that anxiety as such is an unsafe clinical criterium on which to found a special diagnosis. It occurs in too many forms of mental disorder to be thought of as pertaining to one alone. He allies his reported cases with pure melancholias, as already outlined by Wernicke himself, with the psychopathic constitutions, while there remains perhaps a group of cases that former authors have named agitated melancholias in part which perhaps may be said to be Wernicke's anxiety psychosis.