swinging into place along biological lines. The authors are to be congratulated upon seeing the signs of the times and in their attempt to present a living neurology of the entire body.

L. B.

SULLA MALATTIA DI THOMSEN (MYOTONIA CONGENITA). Studii del Dottor Sergio Pansini. Casa Editrice Cav. Dott. V. Pasquale, Naples.

Pansini's monograph upon this rare disease is based upon the intensive study of four of the author's own cases compared with an extensive study of the literature upon this disease. These cases emphasize certain characteristics which distinguish this disease and peculiarly set it aside from other affections.

These are the voluntary myotonic disturbance and the myotonic reaction to stimuli both of which affect only the voluntary movements. The disturbance appears after a period of rest at the initiation of movement and gradually disappears as the movement continues. The disturbance may begin in the upper or lower limbs and after a time progress upward or downward as the case may be, being diffused from one group of muscles to another. It may progress first from the muscles of mastication and of speech to the upper and lower limbs in turn, or affect other muscular groups in the face or otherwise. There is also pronounced dystrophia in the muscular mass. At the same time there is absence of other symptoms on the part either of the central or peripheral nervous system.

These, with its hereditary nature, are the distinctive marks of this rare disease. Any external cause of the disease is unknown, as also how or why such a cause may affect the germ plasm and appear in certain cases in afflicted families. Precipitating causes have in some instances effected the sudden appearance of the disease or increased its severity. It takes the lead in hereditary diseases and is transmitted through both male and female, although women are less often affected by it than men. The psychic condition is usually sound, although in the family of Thomsen, from whom the disease was named, and perhaps in some others, psychopathic conditions exist.

The disease progresses in distribution and in intensity, but then usually reaches a degree of intensity where it remains stationary, a detriment to well-being, yet permitting of ordinary activity under suitable regulation. The fact that but one case has come to autopsy is indicative of such an outcome.

This extended review of this important yet comparatively rare disease presents many points of interest and value, especially as illustrated in the author's own typical cases. Pansini has not kept pace, however, with vegetative neurology, although when this monograph was originally written the possible vegetative neuromuscular hypothesis was hardly even foreshadowed.

JELLIFFE.