Book Reviews

EPILEPSY AND ITS TREATMENT. By WILLIAM P. SPRATLING, M.D., Medical Superintendent of Craig Colony for Epileptics. W. B. Saunders & Co., Philadelphia, New York and London.

From a rich experience of many years as Superintendent at Craig Colony for Epileptics, Dr. Spratling has given us a really splendid book. It certainly occupies a position in the front rank with Gowers, Féré or Binswanger. From the practical standpoint we consider it the superior of all.

The feature that stamps this book as one well worth having is its evident first hand knowledge. While bibliographic research is not at all neglected, and while the opinions of other authors are freely quoted, it is evident throughout the book that Dr. Spratling is dealing with epileptics and not with books about epilepsy.

The chapters on treatment are the fullest, and, to our minds, the most useful that we have seen. A little too much space has been given to the utterly rubbishy hypothesis concerning eye-strain and epilepsy, but inasmuch as this and many other similar half-baked notions are hard to down in the face of their persistent advertising, a definite statement concerning them in a work of this kind may be worth while. Similar attention, perhaps for the same reason, has been given to the many quack remedies for epilepsy. We commend this work most heartily. JELLIFFE.

LA MIMICA DEL PENSIERO, STUDI E RICERCHE. DR. SANTE DE SANCTIS, DELLA R. UNIVERSITA DI ROMA. Remo Sandron. Milan, Palermo, Napoli.

Following the studies of Darwin, Hughes and others, de Sanctis makes an application of these inquiries into the relations of expression to thought and the emotions.

He enquires how far can a study of facial expression, of bodily movement, etc., enable one to judge of many of the psychological processes in the absence of voluntary aid on the part of the sick or the insane.

He further focusses his study on the process of attention, and seeks to determine quantitative variations in this fundamental psychological process by close observations on the quality of respiration, the frequency and rhythm, circulatory phenomena, reflexes, pupillary changes and other psychophysiological criteria.

The small volume is one that contains many suggestions, and is well worth while. JELLIFFE.

THE DOCTOR'S RECREATION SERIES. Edited by CHARLES WELLS MOULTON. Volume 1, *The Doctor's Leisure Hour*. Arranged by Porter Davies, M.D. Volume 2, *The Doctor's Red Lamp*. Selected by Charles Wells Moulton. The Saalfeld Publishing Co., Chicago, Akron, Ohio, and New York.

Of these two volumes the first, as its title indicates, is in the lighter vein, being a collection of sketches, verses and jests, bearing more or less directly upon the medical profession. Some of them are of classic reputation, like the story of the blistering of O'Grady, from *Hany Andy*, and others can trace their descent no farther than the "funny column" of some recent newspaper. Occasionally a touch of tragedy creeps in, but for the most part the contents of the various "departments," classified under such headings as "The Prescription," "The Desperate Case," "General Practice" and the like, is calculated to elicit the laugh which the compiler of this volume rightly considers a valuable remedy.

The second volume avows itself "a book of short stories concerning the