

affections that were designated, in 1902, under the name of tabes and general paralysis, are, among syphilitics, of a syphilitic nature, curable by mercurial treatment. This fact has not been recognized: (1) Because mercurial treatment has not been used in these cases regularly and with sufficiently large doses of mercury. (2) Because, like all other lesions of the nervous system, the syphilitic lesions of tabes and general paralysis bring about secondary lesions and their symptoms at first curable become finally permanent. The older the process, the more one observes, other things being equal, symptoms of this character. (3) Because histologists who can sometimes, by microscopical examination, affirm the syphilitic nature of a lesion, have got so they affirm in the name of pathological anatomy that certain lesions are not syphilitic, then that their nature is unknown. Tabes and general paralysis (among syphilitics) are not independent morbid entities, but simply anatomoclinical modalities similarly due to a particular diffusion, a slow evolution of the syphilitic process. Between them and the typical forms of cerebral or spinal syphilis exist all intermediate varieties."

These conclusions are reached after a very careful study of the whole subject from the several standpoints, clinical, pathological, therapeutic. Fournier is criticised and his class of parasyphilitic affections is called artificial. On the general subject of the etiology of both tabes and paresis the author states that it is impossible to state whether these diseases occur only in syphilitics but when they are of syphilitic origin they are of syphilitic nature. In proof of these assertions he cites many cases of both diseases that have been cured by antisymphilitic treatment.

The author's contention certainly has much to commend it and is stated in a careful, conservative manner and illustrated by a wealth of references to literature and to cases both personal and reported. Certainly many of the cases which we are today inclined to feel uncertain about would find here an explanation, more satisfying and more scientific than the *post hoc* method of therapeutics. Particularly is this so of certain cerebral affections which have all the appearances of uncomplicated syphilitic lesions when first seen but which, at a later date, perhaps a year or two afterwards, develop the typical symptoms of paresis. Both the diagnosis of paresis developing long after an initial specific lesion, and retrospective diagnosis of paresis from the beginning are unsatisfying. A similar criticism might be made in regard to those irregular cases of tabes, with perhaps apoplecticform attacks appearing early with subsequent improvement and a stationary period of uncertain duration.

As to treatment the author lays stress on the necessity of using large enough doses of mercury and recommends the hypodermic method of administration.

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UEBER DIE WIRKUNGEN DER CASTRATION. Von Dr. P. J. MÖBIUS. Verlag von Carl Marhold, Halle a. d. s., 1903.

The historical portion of this monograph is very interesting. Castration was practiced quite extensively among the ancients and the literature of this period although not so accurate as one would desire, still is replete with interesting illustrations. As one of the forms of punishment castration was extensively practiced, though probably not so much so as a part of a religious ceremony. Castration for the preservation of the voice is a well known procedure. Its effects upon the human being depend upon the time of the operation, whether before the age of puberty or after. The author describes the changes which occur as a result of this in the male and female and in animals of both sexes. The alterations in the male as in the sexual apparatus, breasts, bones, fatty tissues,

muscles, glands, internal organs and larynx are well set forth. The changes which occur in the skull and cerebellum are very interesting. A number of cases are on record, where unilateral castration produced after a time an atrophy of the opposite cerebellar lobe and a flattening of the cranial bones lying over this part. Bilateral castration produced changes on both sides. As a result of these findings the interesting theory was some time ago advanced that the genital functions are controlled by the cerebellum. The subject of castration is well discussed, and the monograph is worth reading.

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UEBER DEN PHYSIOLOGISCHEN SCHWACHSINN DES WEIBES. Von Dr. P. J. MÖBIUS. Fünfte veränderte Auflage. Verlag von Carl Marhold in Halle a. s. 1903.

This is the fifth edition of this work. It comprises 123 pages of which the original text only occupies 24 pages, the balance being composed of the prefaces of his previous editions and of the many criticisms which this book has evoked. The author attempts to show that anatomically the brain of the female sex is smaller than the brain of the male, and that therefore her intellectual capacity is correspondingly less. He believes that every woman should be a mother, the latest at the age of twenty-five, and that this is her prime function in life. He does not believe in the advanced education of woman, arguing that as her intelligence increases her maternal instinct correspondingly decreases, with the result that we have a gradual decrease in the number of children, as for instance in France and recently in America.

However this may be, there is no doubt that the number of children born to our so-called "better classes" is smaller than to the poorer classes. How far increased intelligence contributes to this is still a question, for our "better classes" are not always the more intelligent. To the modern woman the question of maternity is a serious one both from the physical and the mental standpoint, for after all it resolves itself to the question of convenience. We have no sympathy with the attempt of the author to place woman on the plain of a mere child-bearing animal. This might perhaps do in the Eastern countries as China and Japan and may even find advocates in Germany, but it will never do in America. Möbius does not believe in the "new woman," the "maseuline woman," neither do we, and we are inclined to agree with him that she should be suppressed, but it is evident that Möbius is unacquainted with the American type, or else he would hardly dare offer such advice.

T. N. WEISENBURG.

OSNOVY OUTCHENYA O FUNKTZIACH MORG. V. BECHTEREFF, Fasciculus I., St. Petersburg, 1903. The basic principles of the functions of the brain, by Prof. V. Bechtereff.

This is the first instalment of what promises to be a capital contribution to the literature of brain function, the complete work to consist of 5 or 6 similar parts covering the entire field of our present knowledge of the subject, and forming as it were a continuation of and a complement to the author's well known work on "The Conducting Paths of the Nervous System." Its value is enhanced by the fact that it presents the results of numerous laboratory experiments conducted by the author and his assistants over a period of many years; while at the same time the labors of other investigators are duly appreciated and their importance is unstintingly acknowledged, as far as may be judged from the volume before us. The author found it practicable to treat of the various functions of the brain topographically, namely dealing with this or that portion of the brain in its relation to certain functions. The present issue of some 260 pages is devoted to the treatment of the spinal cord and the medulla