the diseases are not identical, and that leprosy has its origin as a disease of peripheral nerves, whereas syringomyelia is to be regarded as a primary affection of the cord. The question of secondary involvement of the cord due to extension from the periphery is a much more difficult problem to answer, particularly in view of our recent anatomical theories and the now well-recognized degenerations of the cord following or associated with so-called peripheral neuritis. The matter of central or peripheral origin of a process is clearly one difficult of determination, and it is apparently at this point that the progress of investigation in the leprosy question is now halting. The writer's material included a study of about forty cases, made at various places, of which numerous histories are given. The examinations were in all cases conducted in a systematic way, with particular reference to disturbances of sensation and of the functions of the cranial nerves. The examination of the motor sphere was confined to the determination of visible muscular atrophy. The results of these various examinations are given in characteristic detail, and will no doubt be valuable to the special student of the subject, who needs statistics and exact statement.

Following this section are nearly thirty pages devoted to a careful analysis of individual symptoms and their value in differential diagnosis. As a final outcome of his study Laehr believes that the important nervous disturbances of leprosy find their most natural explanation in a disease of the peripheral nerves, primarily their distal portions, but under certain circumstances in their more central segments, an opinion with which he finds the anatomical evidence (not his own) in complete agreement. In conclusion the author gives considerable space to an exhaustive differential diagnosis, for the most part arranged in parallel columns, between leprosy and syringomyelia, and leprosy and syphilitic polyneuritis. There are eleven pages of literature references appended, and a number of admirably reproduced photographs, illustrating superficial lesions. The entire study is clinical, rather than pathological, in a broad sense, a fact which lessens its value, particularly in view of the author's statement that some of the most important matters still in dispute demand a careful investigation of the pathological anatomy. There is, however, an implication that this further work will be forthcoming.

E. W. TAYLOR.

THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID. ITS SPONTANEOUS ESCAPE FROM THE NOSE. WITH OBSERVATIONS ON ITS POSITION AND FUNCTION IN THE HUMAN SUBJECT. By St. Clair Thomson, M.D., F.R.C.S., Eng. Cassell & Co., London, 1899.

This admirable monograph is based upon the study of a single case, but Dr. Thomson has enlarged his paper by including the reports of all other cases hitherto recorded—only eight in fact—in which the same condition certainly existed; and by giving a complete account of the disease and the differential diagnosis from all affections with which it might be confused. Naturally, the most interesting part is the description of the condition of the patient observed by himself; a woman of 25, who at that time had suffered for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years from a dripping from the left nostril. This dripping was almost continuous, and probably amounted to as much as 15 oz. in 24 hours. It was carefully analyzed by Prof. Halliburton, and found to conform in every respect to normal cerebrospinal fluid. It was absolutely sterile. The patient in youth had suffered from headaches, and on various occasions when the flow had ceased for a time, the headaches had reappeared. The nose and eyes were perfectly normal. There was no history of injury or other

satisfactory explanation for the condition. In addition to the eight cases collected from the literature, Thomson by thorough research has added 12 probable ones, and a number in which the condition possibly existed. All these groups are tabulated. He has also collected cases of various other conditions that simulate the escape of cerebrospinal fluid, particularly one of hydrorrhea, in which a chemical analysis was made of the secretion by Prof. Halliburton. The conditions can be distinguished by the fact that the cerebrospinal fluid contains no mucin, a trace of globulin, and pyrocatechin—the secretions from the nose contain pseudo-mucin, a considerable quantity of proteid matter, and a certain amount of sugar which reduces Fehling's solution. Among the most interesting facts recorded are the results of some experiments upon the effect of position and effort upon the secretion of the cerebrospinal fluid. It was found that when the patient was sitting quietly, the quantity was considerably less than when she made some vigorous effort, but that the increased quantities obtained during the period of effort were of lower specific gravity and contained fewer solids. The effect of position was also quite pronounced. When the patient was sitting up the percentage of solids was considerably greater. When the patient was allowed to sit in the chair and the abdomen was vigorously compressed, the quantity of fluid was almost twice as much as when she sat quietly. The percentage of solids was very much reduced.

We cannot refrain from expressing our satisfaction at finding a man willing to publish in the form of a monograph an article whose length makes it entirely too bulky for publication in a journal. The value of the book consists in the fact that it calls attention to a rare but interesting condition, and presents in succinct but complete form all our present knowledge upon the subject. It is, however, of more interest to the rhinologist than to the neurologist.

SAILER.

KRANKHEITEN DES RÜCKENMARKES. Prof. H. Obersteiner and Docent E. Redlich. Separat-Abdruck aus Handbuch der praktischen Medicin, unter Redaktion von Dr. W. Ebstein und Dr. J. Schwalbe; herausgegeben von W. Ebstein. Verlag von Ferdinand Enke, Stuttgart.

This chapter is devoted to diseases of the spinal cord and forms part of the "Handbuch der praktischen Medicin." It is 230 pages in length, and is quite profusely illustrated. It is intended more for the general practitioner than for the specialist in neurology, and will doubtless be of much practical value. The various diseases of the spinal cord are briefly but satisfactorily described. The names of the authors are a guarantee of the excellence of the work. Books of this character are always useful and this chapter could with advantage be published separately.

SPILLER.

ESSENTIALS OF THE PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS OF THE THORAX. By Arthur M. Corwin, A.M., M.D. Third edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1899.

This excellent little book, which already is before us in its third edition, gives in a clear and concise form the elements of physical diagnosis. The systematic way in which the subject has been considered will make it especially useful for the student and will permit it to serve as a valuable guide to the more elaborate study of this branch of