possible mechanisms by which these paralyses may occur: (1) Pressure on the plexus, (a) exerted between the clavicle and transverse processes of the vertebrae, and (b) between the clavicle and the first rib; (2) tension on the roots or plexus from the position of the arm; (3) tension from position of the head or neck, the arm being abducted.

NOYES, New York.

IMPERATIVE CONCEPTIONS. L. Harrison Mettler (*Medical Record*, April 4, 1903).

Imperative conceptions or ideas are those involuntary, unrelated persistent notions that spring up in the minds of many victims of nervous disease. Though found in many states of mental and physical debility, they belong essentially and entirely to the psychoses. A sharp distinction should be made between the imperative conceptions of the sane and the insane. In the sane the person's judgment remains unaltered; he tries to resist them and often succeeds. The imperative conceptions of the insane become for the time being the patient's very ego. The insane delusion is deeper and more influential than the imperative conception, entering into the constitution of his ego, and coloring and outlining his objective world. The so-called imperative idea, on the other hand, is recognized by the patient to be a mere subjective phenomenon, annoying and persistent though it may be. It may involve all the faculties of the mind, not alone the imagination, but there are usually no distinct hallucinations or delusions with these impulsive conceptions. Insane delusions are, primarily, the result of a diseased cortex; imperative conceptions are the result generally of disease outside the brain.

NOYES (New York).

NEURITIS FROM WHOOPING COUGH. Charles E. Aldrich (*N. Y. Medical Journal*, June 6, 1903).

Neuritis may attend or follow any of the acute infections, especially those characterized by prolonged high fever, marked disturbance of nutrition and great prostration. The author reports a case of a child aged four, who, after whooping-cough, developed weakness, pain in the legs, weakness of grasp of hands, nasal speech and regurgitation of fluids from the nose, diminution of knee jerks and loss of touch and pain sense in the hands and feet. Recovery came after twelve weeks. Various forms of paralysis have been observed to complicate or follow whooping-cough. Literature proves that it is rare. Sixty-two cases reported were cerebral in origin. Several cases of general peripheral neuritis were collected from literature.

W. B. NOYES, New York.

DEVELOPMENT AND CARE OF CHILDREN. J. C. Cook (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 6, 1903).

The changes in the nervous system from birth to maturity afford us many examples of the differences between the child and adult. At birth the central nervous system, as well as the peripheral, is almost entirely unmyelinated. Hence we find the fibers of the spinal cord, the medulla, corpus quadrigeminus and the pons varolii mainly somatic. The motor nerves receive their attachments much earlier than the inhibitory centers are developed, hence the objectless movement that characterizes the unmeasured exercise of the young. Thus maturity is gradual, and full growth is only reached between puberty and adult life. It is our duty to guard and conserve every atom of energy through this period of unfolding and budding life, realizing that they are bundles of possibilities unconsolidated, which begin at the beginning and end we know not where. The study of biology teaches that the higher the organism, the slower the development, hence the necessity of a long period of protection and care. Take with this the long periods of stress and functional demands on the nervous system and