Book Reviews

THE PRACTICAL MEDICINE SERIES. Nervous and Mental Diseases. Edited by Hugh T. Patrick, M.D., and Charles L. Mix, A.M., M.D. Volume X, series 1909, and volume X, series 1910. Chicago, The Year Book Publishers. Pp. 248.

These volumes coming out every year have a distinct place in the literature of nervous and mental diseases. They present a really very excellent summary of the situation, and the profession is indebted to the editors for their painstaking care in their preparation. The psychiatrist is apt to be somewhat disappointed by the limited space to which mental disorders are relegated, but this is probably inevitable from the fact that the editorial work is done by men whose primary interest is neurological. The neurological portions of the volumes are far the better, while the mental part gives one the impression that the sources of information from which the editors drew are limited to two or three American and English journals.

WHITE.

THE HARVEY LECTURES. 1909-1910. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York.

Among the general papers, in this collection of papers of high merit, we would single out two of special interest to our readers, The Influence of Sensory Impressions in Scientific Deductions, by Otto Cohnheim, and the Present Status of Aphasia and Apraxia, by Adolf Meyer. Not that the work on Nephritis, on Renal Activity, and Renal Strictures, on Inflammation, and on Uric Acid in Gout, do not concern neurologists or psychiatrists, but they lie more to one side in the direct focus of interests of students of the nervous system.

Cohnheim's paper deals rather exhaustively on sensory impressions and the digestive tract, the effects of altitude on the blood composition, and the problems of muscular activity and sensory stimulation.

Meyer presents a short review of previous work on aphasia and apraxia, and then gives short analyses of several cases, chiefly drawn from the New York Hospital services. His paper is one that demands attention, stimulates enquiry, and shows bravery in offering no simple explanations. It is well worth reading.

JELLIFFE.

STUDIES ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SEX. Vol. VI. Sex in Relation to Society. By Havelock Ellis. F. A. Davis Company, publishers, Philadelphia.

The attitude of mind assumed by members of certain classes of society is that no such question as sex exists. The ostrich of the fable may well adorn their coat of arms and represent their motto. For the author of this book, however, such a trivial subterfuge makes no appeal, and he has entered into the problem of sex in relation to society as no English writer has ever done before.