municating with the ventricles, must be, in the author's opinion, extremely rare, for reasons that are easily apparent to every one. Hence he views with disfavor an attempt to describe an external hydrocephalus in the older sense. This term, if admitted at all, should be used for those very rare cases in which the effusion is subdural, and does not communicate at all with the ventricular-arachnoid sac. In such cases, of course, the condition is radically distinct from hydrocephalus as ordinarily understood.

Beginning thus with a clear definition of his subject, d'Astros takes up seriatim all the various morbid states that cause or are associated with effusion into the ventricles.

Congenital hydrocephalus is admittedly the most characteristic and at the same time the most obscure form of the disease. The author distinguishes a true teratological and a pathological variety, but the distinction is not satisfactory, for even in the teratological form there must be practically something pathological, since this form arises from errors in the development of the embryo that are essentially morbid. This is shown by the fact that this variety is often associated with spina bifida and encephalocele. In fact, the hydrocephalus is probably due, just as is spina bifida, to a faulty development of the walls of the primitive neural tube in the embryo. It is here especially that we need new light on the radical causation of hydrocephalus, and the author, in common with others, fails to give such light. This is a chapter in embryonal pathology that is still uncompleted.

Among the various causes of acquired hydrocephalus (post-natal) d'Astros recognizes certain infections, rachitis, serous meningitis, gross lesions, such as tumors, tubercnlosis, and hereditary syphilis. These causes act to produce ventricular effusion in one of two ways, either by stasis or by irritation. Stasis may be venous or lymphatic. Irritation acts especially in the vessels of the choroid plexus or in the ependyma. Effusion from a mere blocking up of the foramina of the ventricles (the foramen of Monro, the aqueduct of Sylvius, or the foramen of Magendie) is not accepted without great reserve by the author, for, as he says truly, any lesion acting to obstruct these natural orifices would probably act also to obstruct the venous outflow. This obstruction of the veins and lymphatics is a much more probable cause of effusion than a mere obstruction of the various foramina of the ventricles, through which the circulation of the cerebrospinal fluid is probably not very active.

Quinke's view of a serous meningitis is criticized by d'Astros, who does not altogether deny the existence of this disease, but very properly points out that in some recorded cases, including those of Quinke himself, the lesion is susceptible of other explanations, as, for instance, the action of tubercles or some other infection.

D'Astros concludes his book with a chapter on treatment, in which he reviews especially the various surgical procedures that have been advised for the relief of hydrocephalus. This is an especially important chapter for those who are interested in the surgical aspects of the subject, as it presents a complete view of this somewhat forlorn field of practice.

JAMES HENDRIE LLOYD.

FESTSCHRIFT ANLAESSLICH DES FÜNFZIGJAEHRIGEN BESTEHENS DER PROVINZIAL-IRREN-ANSTALT ZU NIETLEBEN BEI HALLW. A. S. Von früheren und jetzigen Aertzten der Anstalt. F. C. W. Vogel, Leipzig. 1897.

This volume contains a number of contributions to psychiatry, both interesting and able, by alienists of international reputation.

Ueber den Querulanten-Wahnsinn, by E. Hitzig; Clinical Contributions to Forensic Psychiatry, by E. Siemerling; Reflex Epilepsy, by A. Seeligmüller; Psychical Disturbances following Attempted Suicide by Hanging, by R. Wollenberg; Uræmia Presenting the Pictures of General Paresis, by L. Bruns; Herpes Zoster, by G. Peters; Epilepsy as a Symptom of Withdrawal of Morphine, by C. Heimann; Chronic Paranoia in Epileptic Individuals, by A. Bucholz. These, with a few others, make up the contents of this excellent report. In the United States reports of this type are, unfortunately, the great exception to the rule, those usually issued from our institutions consisting for the main part of useless pages of figures. JELLIFFE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Care of the Baby," by J. P. Crozer Griffith, M. D. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia.

"A Text-Book of Pathology," by Alfred Stengel, M. D. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia.

"The American Pocket Medical Dictionary," by W. A. Newman Dorland, A. M., M. D.

"Cleft Palate; Treatment of Simple Fractures by Operation; Diseases of Joints, Antrectomy. Hernia," etc., by W. Arbuthnot Lane, M. D. The Medical Publishing Company, Limited, London.

"Essentials of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Prescription-Writing," by Henry Morris, M. D. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia.

"Ueber das Pathologische bei Goethe," by P. J. Möbius. J. A. Barth, Leipzig, 1898.

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"De la Constitution des Noyaux moteur médullaires," by F. Sano.

"Abolition du reflexe rotulien malgré l'intégrité relatif de la moelle lombo-sacrée," by F. Sano. From Journal de Neurologie, 1898.

"Les Etats Neurasthéniques," by Dr. Gilles de La Tourette.