Book Reviews

THE HEALER. By Robert Herrick. The Macmillan Co., New York.

Robert Herrick has created the character of a physician with ideals and aims which in his youth he holds to be incompatible with the art of healing as practised in large cities by the majority of men. Keen of brain, the wonder of his fellow students and partially a slave to drugs he goes to the wilderness such as used to be found in the Adirondacks, and lives the life of a native, healing the lumbermen and trappers while fighting down his habit.

The feeling of the primeval forest at night, the illimitable wilderness in the snow, and the freshness and the glory of the northern dawn are all pictured in the story with a power that makes it easy to understand how the fresh young society girl who is spending her summer on the edge of the wilderness should fall in love with him, after he has saved her life by a daring operation.

The contrast of human aspirations, ambitions and contentments that is afforded by this odd mating forms food for comment by the other well-drawn conventional types of men and women in the novel, as well as speculation for the reader; while to the author it gives an opportunity to outline the ideal honor of a physician's calling by contrasting his hero's whole-souled devotion to his poor and ignorant patients, with the subtle methods of advertising, and practice building which are in vogue in most communities.

Against the will of this ardent Healer, who makes his patients, whether wealthy or poor, work their way back to health by building log huts, his wife and a wealthy railroad magnate create a furor for his outdoor camp, and his Indian Spring, and the wealthy begin to flock thither. The more he protests against their self-indulgence, and brow beats his patients into building their own beds and doing their own washing, the more they love to feel themselves part of the interesting fad, and the wider grows the fame of his Spring, until the necessity of working for money to satisfy his wife's desires for herself and their children has estranged him from her, and embittered his spirit, and lost him his will. To the rescue comes one of those women with a soul shining out of deep sad eyes and a very thin body, who Herrick more than once has permitted to transiently mate with his misunderstood hero, and after that the Healer's will comes back. He conquers his drug habit for the second time. A fire sweeps away his too successful sanitarium in the woods. He frees himself from his wife and children, for whose support, against this time he has been saving money.

"You did not know" he says to his wife, "that money is blood—nay more—it is the spirit of the man coined? A doctor who makes fifty thousand a year, as I have done, has coined his soul and sold it."

He begins life again in the deadly dreariness of back streets in a city. Here, as he walks "the murmuring streets of the human wilderness, and read again the innumerable signs of the would-be healers before

their doors, he was no longer scornful, no longer intolerant of them and their incompetence. They too 'patched' with their limited power as he with his, for the most part honestly, doomed by those human conditions that make life what it is, doomed to large facilities, to base compromises, to inefficiency and waste."

And yet the living of the high ideal of vigorous youth, after serving its place in the story, as a foil to all the social tricks of a merely lucrative practice, serves a still better purpose, for after the Healer realizes that he has not lived up to it he perceives that many men are giving their lives more honestly, more humbly, more humanly even than he in his wild erratic insistence on lack of convention; and so one's faith in the patient unceasing toil of true physicians is not destroyed, even though very illuminating flashlights are turned upon some aspects of the career of their most successful brethren. It is a book for a physician, and especially a neurologist, to enjoy keenly.

JELLIFFE.

ANATOMY OF THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD. By J. Ryland Whitaker, B.A., M.B. (Lond.). Fourth Edition. E. & S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. 5s. 6d.

This excellent little compendium, written originally by the author as a student, has been revised in a fourth edition. It is clearly written, well illustrated, and is a thoroughly usable presentation of the subject for students.

JELLIFFE.

MANUAL OF PSYCHIATRY. By J. Rogues de Fursac, M.D. Translated by A. J. Rosanoff, M.D. Third Edition. John Wiley & Sons, New York.

Kraepelian psychiatry seen through French eyes, and excellent eyes at that, is what we have in de Fursac's excellent short manual. We have had the pleasure of commending this small translation highly, and again take occasion to reiterate our judgment that this is an excellent book.

Dr. Rosanoff has added some sections on Race Psychopathology, Mendelianism in the Psychoses, Psychotherapy, Constitutional Make-up in Dementia Præcox, and Manic Depressive Psychosis; also the cerebro-spinal fluid and the Binet-Simon mental age tests. These have made the volume even more valuable than the French original. We regret the use of the word "insanity" as having a medical significance, "Heredity of insanity," "those forms of insanity," etc., thus by implication retaining the use of an old symbol signifying that "insanity" was all of the psychoses lumped together. Why not "heredity of mania," forms of "mania," as Pinel used the term? He made it synonymous with all of the psychoses.

JELLIFFE.