

motility, electrical reaction, superficial and deep sensibility, stereognosis, vasomotor and sudorific reactions, and thermic and trophic phenomena. There is also a chapter treating critically the various hypotheses that have been formulated to account for the facts. The work closes by an account of a carefully observed case of total section of the median nerve. This case is beautifully illustrated by photographs of the hand, radiographs of the hand, diagrams, and fingerprints showing the atrophy of certain portions of the pattern. This latter fact might be of interest to those who are engaged in the question of identification of fingerprints. The work is an excellent study, and commends itself for its careful covering of the facts and its minute analysis of the disturbances. It is a distinct contribution to the study of the peripheral nerves.

WHITE.

KLINIK UND BIOLOGIE DER THYMUSDRÜSE MIT BESONDERER BERÜCKSICHTIGUNG IHRER BEZIEHUNGEN ZU KNOCHEN- UND NERVENSYSTEM. Von Dr. Heinrich Klose und Prof. Dr. Heinrich Vogt. H. Laupp, Tübingen.

Thrown into monograph form, this reprint from the *Beiträge zur klinischen Chirurgie* gathers practically all of the available knowledge concerning the thymus. The phylogenesis, morphology, clinical manifestations of thymus disease, and experimental researches on the thymus are presented fully and thoroughly.

The loss of calcium, particularly in the bony system, is a noteworthy factor in experimental thymus extirpation. This stands in close relationship to increased acidosis, and the authors consider in extenso the complicated interchanges between the altered calcium metabolism of phosphoric acid combinations and nuclein synthesis.

Through certain of these faulty metabolic activities tetany like symptoms develop, and these researches afford additional insight into certain pathological spasmodic motor activities. The authors therefore consider acid intoxication as one of the important elements in the production of tetany.

Further attention is given to microscopical increase in the tissue fluids, and the swelling of the tissues themselves. This swelling may take place in the brain tissues as well. The importance to the life of the animal of proper thymus functioning is thus brought into the foreground, and special weight is laid upon thymus autoplasmic surgical procedures in therapy.

This is a timely and valuable monograph calling attention to many heretofore unknown factors in nervous pathology.

JELLIFFE.

GEHIRN UND SEELE. Von Dr. Erich Becher. Heidelberg, 1911. Pp. 405; price M. 5.40.

This work of Becher is rather comprehensive in its conception. It starts with a description of the nerve cell, and ends with the soul, carrying one over intermediary stages of cortical localization and psychology. It contains a vast amount of information, including a setting forth of many important theories of mental activities. The book naturally suffers from endeavoring to cover too much ground in too small a space, and although it has upwards of 400 pages it is still only a sketch of the subjects with

which it deals. On the whole it is a work that would appeal rather to those who are not engaged in psychological or psychiatric study, but to those in some other field of work who want a review of the whole question of mind and body.

WHITE.

L'HOMICIDE EN PATHOLOGIE MENTALE. Par le Dr. D. Valdoff. Médecin de l'Hôpital Alexandre Premier (Sofia). A. Maloine, Editeur, Paris.

Professor Legrain has written a preface to this interesting volume. Homicide is, correctly speaking, a symptom, it is an act solely, and usually the result of the activities of a diseased brain.

The author entirely rejects the old notion of a homicidal mania, as promulgated by Esquirol a hundred years ago, and still discussed as an entity, by supposedly "learned counsel," at the present time.

He then discusses homicidal acts as occurring in the various psychoses as follows: The nosology is difficult to determine. It is not even modern French (1) Chronic delusional states; more or less systematized and prolonged. (This would include the dementia paranoides, paranoia, and manic depressive cases of Kraepelin's nosology.) (2) Acute delusional states (illusions, hallucinations, confusions, etc.) (Here the Kraepelinian would include the various toxic and exhaustive states, many dementia præcox cases, possibly some paretics, syphilitic psychoses, etc.) (3) Demented states. (4) Maniacal states. (5) Impulsive states. (6) Passional states. (7) Secondary states, and (8) Constitutional states.

Although the author's nosological conceptions are hazy, his discussions are very illuminating, and the book offers much useful material for the psychiatrist and medico-legal worker.

JELLIFFE.

PSYCHOLOGY AND PEDAGOGY OF WRITING. By Mary E. Thompson, A.M., Pd.D. Baltimore, Warwick and York, 1911. Pp. 128; price \$1.25.

This work is a study of writing primarily from the standpoint of the teacher, and a study of the results of teaching writing in the different grades of the graded school. For those engaged in this department of educational work the book is valuable and suggestive. It contains, besides the results of ordinary observations, a fairly full account of the psychology of writing, and a most interesting chapter on the historical development of the alphabet.

WHITE.

MONISTISCHE ETHIK Gesetze der Physik und Ethik, abgeleitet aus den Grundprinzipien der Deszendenztheorie. Von Dr. M. L. Stern. Leipzig, J. A. Barth, 1911. Pp. 248; price M. 6.30.

This book is an essay in monistic ethics. It is philosophical in conception, and has little in it of interest to psychiatry. The work is rather diffuse, and although the title might indicate that we would expect a critique of some of the recent work in eugenics, we look for it in vain.

WHITE.