

and was followed by Dr. Goss with a very practical paper. Others taking part were Miss Sara E. Parsons, of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Scribner, Dr. Flood, Dr. Frost, Dr. Tuttle, Dr. Fernald, Dr. Kline, and others.

The next conference was held November 18, 1913, and was upon Hospital Diets. It was opened by Dr. Otto Folin, Professor of Chemistry in Harvard University, and followed by a general discussion in which many participated. Both of these records are well worth reading.

W. R. D.

*Nervous and Mental Diseases.* By ARCHIBALD CHURCH, M.D., Professor of Nervous and Mental Diseases in Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago; and FREDERICK PETERSON, M.D., formerly Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University. Eighth edition, revised. (*Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1914.*)

The preface to this eighth "revised" edition is dated September, 1914, and one is led to infer, as is subsequently confirmed by reading the text that the section on nervous diseases alone has been subject to revision. In this section many additions of considerable note have been made as well as numerous minor alterations. The preface states that the whole subject of syphilis of the nervous system has been carefully scrutinized in order to bring the matter up to recent epoch-making discoveries. While spinal or lumbar puncture is mentioned, and the Wassermann reaction in blood and spinal fluid, no mention is made of the colloidal gold reaction as a means of differential diagnosis. The author speaks hopefully of salvarsan in the treatment of cerebro-spinal syphilis, and believes that the intra-dural injection by the method of Swift and Ellis gives hope at least of amelioration of symptoms.

As we have intimated before, in reviewing previous editions, the section by Dr. Church is a commendable contribution to literature. We regret that as much cannot be said concerning the section on mental diseases by Dr. Peterson. A comparison of the first with the eighth edition shows that the first seventy-eight pages are practically identical, the only change being the introduction of Kraepelin's classification. Surely something more has been done to advance or change our ideas upon the general etiology and symptomatology of mental disorders in fifteen years than is here indicated.

The chapter upon methods of examination has been rewritten since the first edition, but is apparently the same as in the seventh and the same is true of the chapter on general treatment.

As we had occasion to observe in a review of the previous edition, the section on mental diseases shows a strange inequality in the space devoted to various divisions; and the preponderance of space given to topics which are of less practical importance emphasizes the lack of space devoted to those concerning which the reader would naturally appear to require the greater amount of information. For example, less than twenty pages are given to manic-depressive insanity, eight and one-half to dementia præcox,

three and one-half to senile dementia and other senile psychoses, thirteen to paralytic dementia (paresis), while twenty-four are devoted to paranoia and fifty to idiocy.

Korsakoff's syndrome and mental disturbances as the result of arteriosclerosis are not given more than a line in the section on general symptomatology; indeed, arteriosclerosis does not receive even this attention. Nothing is said which would lead one to know that between the first and the eighth editions lumbar puncture had become a routine practice in diagnosis, particularly in paresis, and in the discussion on the etiology of paresis the author is no more definite than in former editions, notwithstanding the Wassermann reaction now in every-day use, which, by the way, he does not mention, the investigations of Moore and Noguchi, and the discovery of the spirochæte in the cortex of paretics. Myxædematous insanity finds no mention, nor does cretinism in the extended notice of other forms of idiocy.

After what has been said, it would probably be expecting too much to look for any reference to some recent and refined methods of differential diagnosis, like the colloidal gold reaction, or any discussion of the attempts by Fauser in Germany and Simon in this country and others to apply the Abderhalden method to the diagnosis of dementia præcox, or to the increasing interest in the etiological relations of disorders of the glands of internal secretion to insanity.

On the whole, the section on mental diseases is disappointing and unworthy the reputation of its author.

E. N. B.