

the whole clinical course of these forms. When the time for this shall have elapsed, the group of "albuminurias not dangerous to life" will probably appear smaller than at present.

Accidental albuminuria is next briefly discussed. Then follow lectures upon the differential diagnosis and the prognosis in albuminuria, on diet, and on the effects of medicines. The author's observations on the subject of prognosis are very practical and suggestive; his views on the effects of various diets are based upon exact investigations, and, therefore, possess a positive value as compared with the vague statements current in text-books; the same may be said of his conclusions in regard to the power of medicines in controlling the output of albumen by diseased kidneys—

"I have satisfied myself, by a long series of careful observations, that we have no right to credit any drug with the power of directly diminishing the discharge of albumen."

This is, at present, the opinion of observant physicians at large. Yet it must not be looked upon as a pessimistic view of the subject. To abandon the effort to diminish *directly* the loss of albumen by drugs, an effort shown over and over again to be useless by the ablest therapeutists, and devote their energies to methods of treatment abundantly proved to be of general benefit to the patient and so *indirectly* favorable to the course of the renal affection is, in fact, a wholesome gain in the management of these diseases.

In regard to climate, the author writes:

"In the mixed forms of organic renal disease, the treatment must be determined according to the preponderating element. In all of them, whether combined or not, the choice of climate is of much importance. When it is possible, these patients should avoid cold and damp districts. It is well for them to winter in the south of Europe, in Algiers, or in Egypt; and practitioners in high altitudes, such as Davos, find that renal cases should not try treatment there. The only exception to this rule is afforded by purely watery cases which have resulted from chronic phthisis, and in which the advantage to be derived, in respect of the pulmonary disease, tells favorably upon the kidney also."

The arrangement of the data and results of investigations in the form of tables constitutes a valuable feature of the book, and saves space and needless repetition.

In conclusion, we regard these lectures in their present form as an important contribution to the literature of clinical medicine in the broadest sense.

J. C. W.

ESSAYS ON HYSTERIA, BRAIN TUMOR, AND SOME OTHER CASES OF NERVOUS DISEASE. By MARY PUTNAM JACOBI. 8vo. pp. 208. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1888.

In this little volume, Dr. Jacobi has brought together seven interesting essays, elsewhere published, on various forms of nervous disease, the two subjects mentioned in the title occupying two-thirds of the book. The work is noteworthy from its careful preparation, diligent search of literature, familiarity with the subjects treated, considerable practical

experience in nervous diseases combined with powers of keen observation, and is made attractive by its clear style.

The writer believes that in hysteria there is a congenital or acquired deficiency in the power of the nerve elements to effect the storage of force in nerve tissues, resulting in morbid limitations of function. And that further the normal balance of action between sensory and motor nerve elements is interfered with, producing as a result increased inhibition on one side and hyper-sensitiveness on the other. The seat of this disturbance is the cortex, and vaso-motor instability accompanies and possibly causes it. In this view the influence of Meynert upon the author's line of thought is evident; the hypothesis of a correlation between cortical and subcortical action and blood supply being accepted. Many interesting facts are gathered in apparent support of this view of hysteria—which certainly is a fairly satisfactory one.

As a basis for the essay on brain tumors the writer has brought together over five hundred cases from foreign literature, and, therefore, the tables and percentages are very valuable. Such facts as the absence of headache in one-half of the cases of tumors of the cortex, the infrequency of vertigo and vomiting in tumors of the frontal lobes (18 per cent.), the occurrence of choked disk in only 22 per cent. of 362 cases; the greater frequency of this symptom in tumors affecting the base of the brain than in other locations, the greater frequency of mental symptoms in tumors of the centrum ovale (60 per cent.) than in those of the cortex alone (49 per cent.) or frontal lobes alone, are very important aids to diagnosis. The discussion of focal symptoms is admirable, the section on paralysis and spasm being very clear. Differential diagnosis is not fully discussed, the possibility of nephritis or hysteria being mistaken for tumor not being mentioned. The chief criticism which may be made is that too much stress is laid upon the statistical consideration of single symptoms and too little importance attached to their combination in individual cases.

The remaining essays on the loss of nouns in aphasia; on rotary spasm; on the prophylaxis of insanity; on the antagonism between remedies and diseases, and on hysterical locomotor ataxia will interest the neurologist.

M. A. S.

THE MILROY LECTURES ON EPIDEMIC INFLUENCES. ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF YELLOW FEVER. ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF CHOLERA. By ROBERT LAWSON, LL.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals; Late President Epidemiological Society; Fellow Statistical Society. 8vo. pp. 95. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1888.

THIS volume contains the first of a series of lectures to be delivered under the bequest of Dr. Gavin Milroy, who left a sufficient sum to the Royal College of Physicians of London to endow an annual course of lectures on state medicine and public hygiene.

The selection of Dr. Lawson to inaugurate the course of lectures is a fitting compliment to an experienced observer in the field of epidemiology, and most appropriate, as he was well acquainted with the views of Dr. Milroy, with whom he had been very intimate for many years.