

Principles of Therapeutics with Especial Reference to Physiological Therapeutics." The therapeutic index to the eleven volumes, occupying one hundred and twenty-five pages, is comprehensive, and would seem to have been prepared with great care. The editor of this system is to be congratulated on his successful presentation to the profession of the subject of physiologic therapeutics. BASTEDO.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES; THEIR ORIGIN BY MUTATION. HUGO DE VRIES, Professor of Botany in the University of Amsterdam. Edited by D. T. MacDougal. Open Court Publishing Co., Chicago.

The problems of evolution have always attracted the minds of scientific men, no matter in what line of inquiry they may have interested themselves. Botanists and zoologists, working either in systematic fields or with more limited biological problems, have always felt a certain sense of fascination in this line of research.

It need hardly be recalled that hypotheses of long time evolution have held sway up to within the last thirty or forty years, and that even at the present time there are many who believe that the genealogical tree of a species runs back thousands of years into the dim past. The recent evidence, however, not only coming from so able a botanist as De Vries, who for twenty years has been pursuing the solution of the problems of evolution, but from all sides, is tending to show that new species may originate by sudden leaps, or, as De Vries and others have termed it, by mutation, and that from the seed of any one plant several such mutations and true species may arise.

The present volume deals with the detailed discussion of the evidence that De Vries has gathered bearing on this point, and presents his latest contribution to the subject of evolution, no less important than the epoch-making work of Darwin. The facts and details which furnish the basis for his mutation hypothesis are here presented in a readable and systematic manner. Historical data, problems of heredity and descent are included in these twenty-five chapters. We can most cordially recommend to our readers, particularly those who have memories of their botanical studies still in mind, this interesting series of lectures. JELLIFFE.

A TREATISE ON THE NERVOUS DISEASES OF CHILDREN FOR PHYSICIANS AND STUDENTS. BY B. SACHS, M.D., Alienist and Neurologist to Bellevue Hospital, and Neurologist to the Mt. Sinai Hospital, etc. Second edition, revised. William Wood and Company, New York.

The fact that Dr. Sachs' book is asked for in a second edition after but three years shows two things: First, how commendably widespread is the interest in children's diseases, and how much it is appreciated that in every department they are quite distinct from the diseases of adults; and, secondly, how well Dr. Sachs' work has been done, making it of very great value for those who are interested in the subject. The fact that it has been translated into German and Italian, and that a French edition is in preparation, shows how much the work has been appreciated. With very few exceptions there is in recent years no work of American Medical Literature that has attracted more widespread attention than this. Dr. Sachs has done well in reducing the size of the book by omitting the chapters on anatomy and physiology which are to be found in all the ordinary text-books on nervous diseases. As it is now, the book deserves high commendation for its orderliness, its completeness of details, its suggestiveness in matters of treatment, its helpfulness in diagnosis, and the very clear method of presentation which characterizes it. The author's revision for this second edition has added much new material and has brought the work thoroughly up to date. There is nothing with regard to the nervous affections of children which seems to be lacking in it, and

we heartily commend it to those who are looking for a treatment of this difficult subject.

We can scarcely refrain, however, from a remark with regard to the book-making. Altogether the book contains about 550 pages, or with the index 570, and yet, owing to the paper used in it, it has become a heavy, cumbersome volume, quite tiresome to handle. Why cannot we have the real hand books printed on lighter paper, with lighter binding, such as are so common in England and France.

WALSH.

KRIMINALPSYCHOLOGIE UND STRAFTLICHE PSYCHOPATHOLOGIE AUF NATURWISSENSCHAFTLICHER GRUNDLAGE. VON ROBERT SOMMER, M.D., Ph.D. O., Professor of Psychiatrie in the University of Giessen. Johann Ambrosius Barth, Leipzig.

Prof. Sommer has always interested himself in the relations of the criminal character to psychological norms. The son of an eminent jurist, since 1894 he has contributed regularly to the subject, at first to the Dresden Society for Psychiatry, and later his work at Giessen has brought him very closely in contact with social defectives. These have been welcomed in his clinic at Giessen, and much progress has been made in the study of the criminal types.

The present work does not attempt a thorough discussion of criminal psychology. After an introductory chapter on the German criminal code, he takes up various examples of deviates, whose variation from average standards is liable to bring them into conflict with the social safeguards. Various psychopathic states are discussed, special chapters being devoted to imbecility, dementias, paranoia, etc. The epileptic type is thoroughly analyzed. Especially interesting chapters are those on "Prison Psychoses" and on "Simulation of Insanity." The latter is particularly suggestive and helpful.

The author has been instrumental in bringing the modes of procedure with reference to criminal law more in accord with the teachings of modern psychiatric science, and chapters 17, 19, 20 and 22 are full of well-considered ideas bearing on this important topic. The work is a very worthy one.

JELLIFFE.

A TREATISE ON DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. BY L. HARRISON METTLER, A.M., M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, College of Medicine of the University of Illinois; Professor of Mental and Nervous Diseases in the Chicago Clinical School; Consulting Neurologist to the Norwegian Deaconess' Home and Hospital, Chicago. Cleveland Press, Chicago, 1905.

Mettler's book is a big one, six pounds and a half avoirdupois. Its scope, however, is far from exhaustive. The reason for this appears to be that the author spends much time on principles, essaying to deduce symptoms from the physiology of disease. This is an admirable design, but hard to execute, and the author at times is exasperated by his difficulties. Only thus can we account for his attacks (p. 630) upon those who, he says, "must show how a relatively inert nerve fibre . . . can . . . give rise to the most excruciating agony . . . in opposition to all the teachings of physiology;" or (p. 40) his gloating over those unfortunates "pushed to the wall" for speaking of functional diseases as "without change of structure;" or (p. 716) his invective against "some physiologists" with their "narrow way" of limiting the cortical centers—"puerile, grossly materialistic and absolutely unwarranted by any scientific proof worthy of the name;" or (p. 791) his disgust with "this so-called higher visual center" which "is not only hypothetical but unsupported by the slightest shadow of anatomical evidence. It is a sorry makeshift from one dilemma into another." Surely this polemic manner is out of place in a text-book.