

Book Reviews

UNCONSCIOUS THERAPEUTICS; OR, THE PERSONALITY OF THE PHYSICIAN. By Alfred Schofield, M.D., M.R.C.S., etc. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia.

We once heard of an old professor in one of the great medical schools who was in the habit of remarking to his classes: "Gentlemen, the practice of medicine is one part skill and knowledge and ninety-nine parts *savoir faire*." This is perhaps putting it a little strongly, but that the personality of the physician has far more to do with his success than his professional training or natural ability is a fact quite generally recognized inside the profession as well as out. It has been the aim of the author of *Unconscious Therapeutics* to drive home this truth, and the result of his labors is a readable little volume, which many a medical man may peruse with pleasure as well as profit. Psychotherapy has been very generally left in the hands of devotees of religious cults and quacks and charlatans generally, but it is the opinion of Dr. Schofield that its application can be made by every practitioner with benefit alike to his patients and himself, and he advocates scientific instruction in this much neglected branch that students aiming to devote their lives to the practice of medicine may recognize "the power for good or evil that resides in the doctor himself, alike in causing, aggravating and curing disease. It is not that their practice or prescriptions have to be radically altered, it is not that their text-books are to be cast aside, but it is that everywhere, and at all times, they shall have constantly before them the two questions: 'What part does mind play in causing this disease?' and 'How far can it be made to assist in its cure?'" The book may be recommended especially to those members of the profession who aim to give especial attention to mental and psychical states, but it also contains much that would be of value to any practitioner, whether his career is just opening before him, or the last milestone is almost in sight.

POPE.

JAHRESBERICHT UEBER DIE LEISTUNGEN UND FORTSCHRITTE AUF DEM GEBIETE DER NEUROLOGIE UND PSYCHIATRIE. E. FLATAU, E. MENDEL and L. JACOBSON. VII. Jahrgang. Bericht über das Jahr, 1903. Erste Hälfte. S. P. Karger, Berlin, Germany.

We welcome the early appearance of Karger's *Year Book of Neurology and Psychiatry*. This has been made possible by getting the book out in two parts.

In this the first half of 600 pages the arrangements of previous years are maintained. There are practically no changes in the staff of editors.

We maintain, as in previous reviews, that no worker in the field can get along without this Jahresbericht. It is the most complete published, and by no amount of work by private secretary, by paid assistants, working in large libraries, or by special literary bureaus, can one commence to get the essential things from literature as by the use of this year book. Other summaries are the flimsiest ghosts; this volume is flesh and blood. It is worth double the money as a time saver alone.

We desire to call attention to one feature that we believe the editors might save time and expense, so far as American literature is concerned. The reports from Society Proceedings (Sitzungsbericht) could well be omitted, as with us the papers read are invariably published in full elsewhere, and the society reports are notoriously inaccurate and misleading. We would also like to see a fuller analysis of the various *Theses*. These are usually unobtainable, in this country at least, and are not usually to be

found in any save the large libraries of Washington, New York or Philadelphia.

We are pleased to note that the abstracts of articles in the impossible languages, such as Bohemian, Russian, Polish, Hungarian, etc., are full. We again repeat that abstracts from the more current periodical literature of the Teutonic and Romance languages can be shortened to advantage, if these others are made more complete, as most of the periodicals in the German and French, are comparatively easy to obtain and to decipher.

JELLIFFE.

LEHRBUCH DER SPEZIELLEN PSYCHIATRIE FÜR STUDIERENDE UND AERZTE.
VON DR. ALEXANDER PILCZ. Docent f. Psychiatrie und Neurologie
an der Wiener Universität. Franz Deuticke, Leipzig und Wien.

This is a thoroughly practical little text-book. It does not indulge in many hair splitting distinctions; its descriptions are terse and very realistic, and taken all in all it is a useful antidote to many of the larger and more psychological treatises. The author's classification is as follows:—

I. Acute Functional Insanities, under which he classes Melancholia, Mania, Amentia and Acute Delirium. II. Chronic Functional Insanities, with Paranoia and Periodical Insanity. III. Alcoholic Insanities, with its varieties. IV. The Dementias, with Paralytic Dementia, Senile Dementia, Dementia from Disease of Brain, and Dementia Præcox. V. Thyroid Insanities. VI. Psychoses of the Major Neuroses, Epileptic and Hysterical Insanity. VII. Evolution Insanities, Idiocy and Imbecility, and VIII., Pathological Degenerations, Impulsions, Sexual Psychopathias, etc.

While from the standpoint of simplicity the work is a useful one for beginners, we cannot feel that for psychiatrists it will aid much in the progress of the science. It unquestionably will aid the teacher, as pedagogically the work has many good points.

JELLIFFE.