

## Notes on New Books

---

*Nervous and Mental Diseases.* By ARCHIBALD CHURCH, M. D., Professor of Nervous and Mental Diseases and Medical Jurisprudence in the Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, and FREDERICK PETERSON, M. D., Ex-President of the State Commission in Lunacy, New York, Clinical Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry, Columbia University, New York. Fifth edition. Thoroughly revised. (Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders and Company, 1905.)

The book appears in its fifth edition. In general make-up it is similar to the former editions, and exceeds the fourth edition by fifteen pages. The typographical work and binding are good.

In the section on Nervous Diseases by Dr. Church, many slight alterations have been made. In the article on Tubercular Meningitis the rhythmical contraction and dilatation of the pupils when the body is bent forwards and backwards, described by Squires, has been added to the paragraph on Symptomatology. In Chapter VIII—Diseases of the Eighth Cranial Nerve, the localizing symptoms of tumor of the root of the auditory nerve, as described by Fraenkel and Hunt, have been added.

It is unfortunate that the chapter on the Cerebral Cortex-Localization has not been revised. The author still retains the old localization of the motor area although it has been definitely agreed upon by authorities for several years that the motor area does not extend posterior to the Rolandic fissure.

In the chapter on Cerebral Hæmorrhage the mental symptoms which may occur are dismissed with the brief remark that "in the old it may precipitate the mental deterioration of senility and it may be followed by organic dementia," which is a very incomplete summary of what may occur. The good results following anti-syphilitic treatment of tabes as given by various French authors have been noted in the section on treatment of that disease.

As a whole the section on Nervous Diseases is well written and will serve as a text-book for students.

The section on Mental Diseases by Dr. Peterson is much inferior in every way to the preceding section.

The author gives several classifications of the Anglo-American, German, and French schools for reference. The classification used in the section is that of the Greco-Roman period with the addition of circular insanity, general paralysis, and paranoia and short chapters on Manic-Depressive Insanity and Dementia Præcox. The only concession made to the advance

---

in Psychiatry in the last twenty years is the addition of Kraepelin's classification, two pages describing the manic-depressive group, five pages on Dementia Præcox, and an excellent review of the work of Kraepelin, Ziehen, and Wernicke by Adolf Meyer. To any one who desires to obtain a knowledge of modern psychiatry this review is the only valuable part of the section.

Dementia is still divided into senile, secondary, and primary, and while the author says that the term dementia is used improperly, used by the laity as synonymous with insanity, he utterly ignores the modern view that dementia is a permanent, incurable deterioration of the mind.

To General Paralysis the author devotes twelve pages. This disease is among the best known, is one of the most frequent, and one of the most important mental diseases, and surely deserves more space than that allotted to it. To Paranoia which is one of the most infrequent psychoses, he gives twenty-four pages. Auto-intoxication is mentioned several times, but no mention is made of the group of psychoses caused by auto-intoxication as described by Régis and others.

As a whole the section cannot be recommended to any one who wishes to get a working knowledge of Psychiatry as it is understood at the present time.

C. R.