

Book Reviews.

TABES UND PSYCHOSE, EINE KLINISCHE STUDIE. VON DR. R. CASSIRER. S. KARGER, Berlin, 1903.

In this little book Cassirer discusses the relation of tabes to mental diseases. He has little to say regarding the alteration of the lateral columns or of the combined alteration of the lateral and posterior columns, occurring in parietic dementia; but confines his attention to the changes in the posterior columns, and endeavors to decide whether these are of the same character as those occurring in tabes dorsalis. He discusses the relation of ordinary tabes to the parietic dementia with alteration of the posterior columns, and to others forms of parietic dementia. Cassirer does not accept willingly the opinion that exhaustion is a cause of tabes and of parietic dementia. Syphilis is a cause of both, but it should not be argued from this that these two diseases are identical. The course of tabes is unlike that of paresis; very acute commencement and rapid progress are very rare in tabes, as are also repeated remissions, and all these are important distinctions, according to Cassirer. He shows by quotations from the literature how the views regarding the identity of tabes and paresis are at variance, and concludes that we shall act wisely if we look upon these diseases as distinct from one another. The remainder of the book is devoted to the occurrence of mental diseases in association with tabes. Paranoia rarely is found in a person with tabes, but then paranoia in a narrow sense, is an uncommon disease. Cassirer is unwilling to recognize a form of mental disease peculiar to tabes, but attempts to classify the symptoms under well recognized types. He believes it is certain that tabes may be associated with severe acute forms of psychoses that are not to be considered parietic dementia. SPILLER.

DIE PHYSIOLOGIE UND PATHOLOGIE DER COÖRDINATION, EINE ANALYSE DER BEWEGUNGSTÖRUNGEN BEI DER ERKRANKUNGEN DES CENTRALNERVENSYSTEMS UND IHRE RATIONELLE THERAPIE. VON DR. OTFRID FOERSTER, Assistent der psychiatrischen klinik der Universität, Breslau. Gustav Fischer, Jena, 7 marks.

In view of the large amount of attention that has been given to the subject of muscular incoördination, and more particularly to its application in the diagnosis of tabes and the rational therapy by means of the Frenkel exercises, Dr. Foerster's work will prove both of absorbing interest to those who would seek more light on the subject of ataxia, and of practical importance to those who are trying to follow out the fundamental principles of the Frenkel methods.

Under two separate portions the author discusses the physiology and pathology of motor coördination, and its application to the defects as found in locomotor ataxia, over two-thirds of the entire book being taken up with this latter subject.

The author develops his physiological features by a complete discussion of muscular antagonistic and synergistic groups, the relative capacity and use of each set determining the result according to a mentally required effect. The amount of control or coördination means, according to Foerster, the correct choice of the necessary amount of innervation. The paths of impulses, the sensory and motor and muscular theories of incoördination,