

the author's remarkably lucid style. In the twelve pages of Part II., devoted to the structure of the spinal cord, there is more rational information than in the lengthy topographical description of the older text books. Each part of the brain is presented with equal care and with the same wealth of illustrations: but what may be expected from Edinger's comparative embryological method is exemplified best in the chapter on the diencephalon. And why should we not refer to this method of studying the central nervous system as the "method of Edinger"? It promises, in the near future, even better results than have been reached by the methods of Flechsig and of v. Gudden.

Of Parts I. and III. the reviewer will say little, for they contain the main chapters of former editions, though much new matter and many new illustrations have been added. We note with regret a single omission. The appendix to the fourth edition, on the newer methods to be used in researches on the structure of the central nervous system, should have been included in the fifth edition also, for the book in its present garb will act as a stimulus to earnest students who would welcome a concise chapter on "technique." The typographical work is beyond praise.

We are informed that an English translation of the fifth edition is soon to appear. It is to be hoped that Dr. Vittum, who gave a very acceptable rendering of the first edition, will make the book worthy of the original.

B. S.

NOTHNAGEL'S SPECIELLE PATHOLOGIE UND THERAPIE. DIE GE-  
SCHWÜLSTE DES GEHIRNS von Prof. Dr. H. OPPENHEIM, in Berlin.  
Vienna, 1896. (Tumors of the Brain).

Twenty years have passed since the publication of Ziemssen's Encyclopaedia. During this score of years such remarkable progress has been made that there is every warrant for the issuance of this new work. Prof. Nothnagel has shown excellent judgment in "dividing parts;" but such judgment is dependent in the first instance upon an intimate acquaintance with the entire medical literature of the day. It is unfortunate that similar works have been planned by men of inferior learning, who have been guilty of all sorts of absurdities in assigning subjects to men whose past experience was not such as to lend authority to their opinions. A more minute subdivision of subject than in Ziemssen's Encyclopaedia will make Nothnagel's series a collection of most valuable monographs. Neurology has fared particularly well. Leyden and Goldscheider are at work on the diseases of the spinal cord and medulla oblongata; Bernhardt has written a very exhaustive treatise on the peripheral nerves, Ewald one on myxoedema and kindred affections and Moebius on exophthalmic goitre. Krafft-Ebing has treated of dementia paralytica, and Oppenheim has done excellent work in discussing syphilis of the nervous system and tumors of the brain. To the last-named monograph we desire to call especial attention to-day, but we hope in the course of the next few months to do justice to some of the other monographs in the series.

Oppenheim has discussed tumors of the brain with great care. There is evidence everywhere of a thorough acquaintance with the German, French, English and American publications, and of a wide personal experience. We are glad to see that the author prefers a careful weighing of results in a few and well-observed cases to the array of meaningless statistics. This applies particularly to the discussion of the symptomatology and of the results of operative procedures. The author has adopted the plan of making general statements and of adding in parenthesis the names of those authors whose writings and opinions supply the evidence. By reference to the literature at the end of this volume

any statement can easily be verified. Each symptom, headache, optic neuritis, convulsions, etc., is discussed fully. There is no room for criticism, as the reviewer finds himself in thorough accord with the author after a very careful study of his monograph. In the chapter on differential diagnosis attention is directed to the fact that double optic neuritis may occur in association with other conditions, such as acute infectious diseases, intoxications, multiple neuritis, etc. Its occurrence as a symptom of syphilis has not been sufficiently insisted upon. In passing we may note that Oppenheim does not believe that the tendency of patients to fall to one side has any localizing value in tumors of the cerebellum; nor does he believe that cerebellar ataxia points to involvement of the vermis, and not of the cerebellar hemispheres. With the latter view we are bound to agree; the former cannot be accepted without reserve.

Operative procedures for the removal of tumors have the sanction of the writer. Oppenheim weighs all the facts to be deduced from the cases hitherto reported, and believes there is much to be gained by operation at the proper time and in the proper region. He does not consider that the size of a tumor need cause one to decide against the practicability of an operation, as the results of Keen, Braman, and Erb have shown. He says little about the necessity of controlling hemorrhages in all these operations. This is left properly enough in the hands of the surgeon, but our own experience has taught us that there is in all cranial operations one paramount danger, and that is the loss of blood. Why have surgeons so long delayed the plan of applying a firm circular ligature? We are quite in accord with the view that in every case the patient should be given the benefit of medicinal treatment before an operation is attempted. A period of six weeks would seem to be quite long enough for such a trial; if delayed beyond this, valuable time may be lost. Since cases that have been improved by drugs are altogether exceptional, we believe that the advisability of operation may be entertained as soon as the diagnosis of an operable tumor has been established. Bruns is right in maintaining that every operation for cerebral tumors is an exploratory operation, and should be urged as such upon the patient. We subscribe also to Oppenheim's opinion that for the present cerebellar tumors belong to the category of inoperable cases. Lumbar puncture is advocated as a palliative measure in certain cases. The danger of this procedure in cerebellar tumors should be made generally known. The present writer's experience leads him to endorse Fürbringer's opinion.

Oppenheim, and for that matter Bruns also (in *Eulenburg's Encyclopædia*) have reviewed the entire subject of brain tumors so thoroughly that future writers need not analyze the antecedent literature, but there is need of further careful reports on the surgical treatment of brain tumors.

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