

Book Reviews.

LEÇONS DE CLINIQUE THERAPEUTIQUE SUR LES MALADIES DU SYSTÈME NERVEUX. Par le docteur Gilles de la Tourette. Paris: E. Plon, Nourrit et Cie., 1898.

This volume of clinical lectures is in the French style, with which we all were so familiar during the life of Charcot. There is certainly no country except France, where it is so much the vogue to publish clinical lectures that a large volume of nearly 500 pages on rather commonplace themes would be looked upon as a matter of course. The volume exemplifies the evils of this kind of literature; it is diffuse without being exhaustive, and prolix without being especially learned. Withal it is interesting; and for those who take time to go through it page by page it will be found both instructive and refreshing to the memory. We cannot but protest, however, against a class of books which, like this one, require twice the time for reading that would be needed for a more condensed volume that could readily contain in one half the space all that this volume contains.

The subjects treated by Gilles de la Tourette are cerebral hemorrhage, neurasthenia, epilepsy, hysteria, tic douloureux, migraine, morphinomania, Ménière's disease, club-foot, syphilitic myelitis and locomotor ataxia.

On the subject of cerebral hemorrhage the author presents nothing new—and for this we certainly cannot criticise him.

Neurasthenia receives from Tourette a very satisfactory exposition. It is not only clearly outlined, but, what is of first importance, it is clearly differentiated from hysteria. This is what we would expect from an author whose monograph on hysteria is the best clear-cut description of this disease that we possess in any language. The author gives full credit to Beard for what he did to establish a recognition of neurasthenia, but he perceives plainly that Beard did not contribute much more than the name and had, himself, a very confused idea of the affection. With him it was a remarkable medley of hysteria, hypochondria and sexual perversion. Tourette subdivides the subject into cerebrasthenia and myelasthenia—not a bad observance, even if a little pedantic. He calls especial attention, even while distinguishing between the two neuroses, to the fact that hysteria and neurasthenia may coexist in the same individual, and to this combination he gives the name hysteroneurasthenia. This is characteristic of the analytical faculty, so well marked in the French mind, and which has made so many of their clinicians such able demonstrators of nervous diseases. It is certain that few American or English writers would proceed to such distinctions, and yet they are perfectly valid and even necessary. We miss, however, in Tourette's paper a clear recognition of certain neurasthenic states of mind which are described by Regis in his recent work as impulsive and aboulie obsessions. We know quite well that most authors include such mental stigmata under incipient or confirmed paranoia, but we are convinced from experience that Regis is correct in recognizing that such fixed or imperative conceptions may coexist with neurasthenia, *i. e.*, may help to constitute a true *cerebrasthenia*. This is an important clinical fact which, it seems to us, is too much ignored by Tourette and others.

The lecture on hysteria is one of the most important in the volume, because it is devoted almost entirely to the therapeutics of this affection. No one is better qualified than Gilles de la Tourette to write

on hysteria, and his scheme of therapeutics, based upon an unrivaled hospital experience, is most interesting and instructive. His trenchant criticism of the theorists who claim that hysteria can readily be cured with hypnotism is especially noteworthy; hypnotism itself, he says, is nothing else than an hysterical crisis, provoked instead of being spontaneous. How easy it must be to confound the disease with the cure, and to overlook the vital fact that the patient who is readily cured by hypnosis is from that very fact proclaimed to be hysterical!

The only remaining subject in Tourette's book that we need note is syphilitic myelitis. The author devotes eighty pages to a discussion of this ever interesting if not ever fruitful theme. He is more optimistic about the curability of nervous syphilis than our own experience permits us to be—but this may merely be because he wants to put his best foot forward when he steps into print. His treatment, both of the theme and the disease, is conventional and open to but little criticism. The only fault, as already indicated, is that it is somewhat hackneyed, and hence disappointing. To read eighty pages from Paris, and to find that they are merely abreast of our best American thought and teaching, is flattering but not surprising, and is a little conducive to ennui.

JAMES HENDRIE LLOYD.

DIE NEUROLOGIE DES AUGES. Ein Handbuch für Nerven- und Augen-Aerzte. Von Dr. H. Wildbrand und Dr. A. Saenger. Erster Band, erste Abtheilung. Mit 63 Textabbildungen. Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergman, 1899.

An ophthalmologist and a neurologist have combined in what another reviewer aptly calls "the happy co-operation of two investigators, each an authority in his field," and produced a book that at once commands the earnest attention of workers in these two important branches of medicine, which have always been, and must continue to be, associated in their interests. Although this is the day of highly differentiated specialties, the union between ophthalmology and neurology is too intimate to permit the devotee of each to pursue separate pathways. One difficulty that this combined effort constantly encounters is the widely scattered literature, which makes orientation confusing. Hence, to gather the reports of cases and the records of autopsies bearing upon any given subject, and after collection to classify and analyze them, is a labor not only of love, but of a high scientific importance. This is the task which our authors have set for themselves and which, as far as they have gone, they have accomplished with skill and judgment.

The scope of their labors may be learned from the contents of the volume, which are as follows: (1) The position and form of the eyelids; (2) the form and width of the palpebral fissure under physiological and pathological conditions; (3) the lid reflexes and the anatomical condition of the orbicularis palpebrarum; (4) the associated movements of the lid and bulbus; (5) spasm of the levator palpebræ; (6) paralysis of the levator palpebræ superioris—ptosis. There is a full description of the anatomy, pathology and physiology of the eyelids, in so far as they pertain to the subject under discussion, and we find discussed such interesting topics as periodic edema and hemorrhages of the lids, spontaneous gangrene, irritation and paralysis of the sympathetic, the ocular phenomena of exophthalmic goiter, the associated movements of the orbicularis with the upward, downward and lateral rotations of the eyeball, as well as the associations between the movements of the lids and the pupillary reactions. In the last-named para-