

Book Reviews

The American Year-Book of Medicine and Surgery for 1904. Vol. I. General Medicine. Edited by GEORGE M. GOULD, A. M., M. D. (Philadelphia, New York, London: W. B. Saunders and Company, 1904.)

This work continues to show the same degree of excellence as heretofore. The summaries of the recent literature of the different specialties and diseases are made briefly, but clearness has not been sacrificed. This sort of book is of value, both to the busy practitioner who has but little time to keep pace with the literature of general medicine and the specialties, and to the specialist who desires to broaden his knowledge to limits outside of his own particular field of study. The section devoted to Nervous and Mental Diseases is under the immediate charge of Dr. Archibald Church who states that "in the matter of mental diseases very little of importance has appeared during the year." This section comprises 38 pages of which 4 are devoted to mental diseases, and contain abstracts from eight articles only. It would seem that much more important papers have appeared than some of those abstracted and that the number has been so curtailed that these 4 pages are of little value to one who desires to inform himself as to the advances which have been made in psychiatry. The objection that the articles abstracted form but a small part of all which have appeared on the subject applies throughout, and the book would gain in value were references given to papers which have not been abstracted.

W. R. D.

Die Progressive Myoklonus-Epilepsie (Unverricht's Myoklonie). Von Dr. HERMAN LUNDBORG, privatdozent der psychiatrie und neurologie in Upsala. (Herausgegeben mit unterstützung aus Wilhelm Ekman's Universitätsfonds.) Progressive Myoclonus-Epilepsy.

This is the third monograph the author has given us upon this interesting association disease. It is the most comprehensive and complete exposition of the disease in any language. The nature, pathology, cause, symptoms, prognosis and differential diagnosis of the affection are given most minute attention. Every phase and stage of the affection are detailed at length from all view-points. The different forms of the disease and atypical cases are illustrated. As the nature of this disease entity is now quite established the etio-pathology and pathology press for solution. The author is inclined to believe as Clark and Prout do, that its cause is one of auto-intoxication. Lundborg especially emphasizes the possible connection of the disease with perverted metabolism of the ductless glands, as Ohlmacher holds for epilepsy proper.

The varying phases of etiology, symptomatology, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment are excellently portrayed from the many recorded cases. The differential diagnosis is especially interesting in that the close relationship of a number of convulsive disorders is considered, such as Huntington's chorea, Koschewniskow's epilepsy, hystero-epilepsy, electric chorea (Henoch-Bergeron), paralysis-agitans and myotonia, fibrillary chorea (Morvan) and myokymie (Schultze). While Lundborg believes all have a kindred pathology in the cortex, he states that there may be, and indeed are, evidences of secondary attendant lesions in the cord and periphery.

The 229 works of reference would serve excellently as a bibliography of the entire subject. On the whole we may say that this excellent monograph is the best and most complete in any language upon the combination disease.

L. PIERCE CLARK.