

comment on their value argues that he has purposely avoided controversy.

The personal observations possess all the details which make them valuable for reference. The pathological considerations are suggestive, but do not go very far.

The classifications are not satisfactory; they seem to be determined by the literature of the subject.

JAMES COLLIER.

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*Die Migräne*, von Dr. P. J. MÖBIUS. 2te Aufl. (Hölder, Wien, 1903).

THIS, the second edition of a well-known monograph, of which the first edition appeared ten years ago, is an excellent account of the clinical syndrome known as migraine. The conclusions at which Möbius arrives are summarised by himself as follows:—Migraine is generally a form of degeneration, hereditary in most cases, by direct inheritance from one or both parents. It is the product of morbid brain changes, hemicranial, whereby the patient has migrainous paroxysms from time to time, sometimes associated with various exciting causes, sometimes without. The form of attack is not always the same. The only feature common to the attacks is the occurrence of paræsthesiæ, cerebral in origin and entirely or preponderatingly unilateral. A complete attack consists of premonitory symptoms, aura, headache and vomiting. Incomplete attacks are more common and in them we find headache alone, or headache accompanied by nausea or vomiting. Sometimes the aura is all that occurs. Attacks may be superadded on one another, producing what he terms the "status hemicranicus" (an expression the latinity of which has a curious flavour). These various symptoms may also occur in other cerebral diseases apart from simple migraine.

Möbius discusses with clearness and detail the symptoms and course of the disease. There is an instructive and humorous chapter on treatment, in which he lays more stress on interparoxysmal hygienic measures and on the removal of possible sources of peripheral irritation than on treatment during the attack itself. Most of the drugs recommended, and their name is legion, yield best results if taken during the premonitory stage.

Once the paroxysm is on, the only reliable drug is morphia, which should only be given in selected cases.

The author frankly admits his inability to provide an adequate hypothesis which will account for the clinical phenomena. He contents himself with expressing his belief that the visual aura is referable to stimulation of the occipital cortex, that the headache is probably due to stimulation of the dura mater and that the vomiting is of cerebral and not of gastric origin. He dismisses the vaso-motor theory as inadequate, pointing out that in no case of disease of the cervical sympathetic, whether destructive or irritative, have symptoms of migraine appeared. Spitzer's theory is referred to in a foot-note, apparently while the volume was passing through the press. Möbius admits its ingenuity, but does not discuss it in full.

Not the smallest of the merits of this work are its clear diction and witty style.

PURVES STEWART.

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*Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System.* Second Series.

By SIR WILLIAM R. GOWERS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.  
(London, J. and A. Churchill, 1904.)

THESE ten lectures, which have already appeared in print at various times, are now, after having been revised, published in book form.

The first lecture deals with subjective visual sensations, and those occurring in epilepsy and migraine are considered in detail. The author concludes that there is very strong clinical evidence in favour of the existence of a higher visual centre in the region of the angular convolution, in which both fields of vision are represented, but that of the opposite side to a greater degree, and that without the assumption of such higher centres a large number of the facts of disease cannot otherwise be understood. There are also in this lecture some very interesting remarks on the relation between sight and movement, illustrated by clinical observations. Lecture 2 is upon the subjective sensations of sound, and in it will be found an interesting account of the nature and pathology of the various kinds of "noises in the head." It is followed by a note on the "Designation of Musical Notes in Science and