

BOOK REVIEWS

Ueber Chronische Alkoholpsychosen. VON DR. PAUL SCHROEDER, Assistant der Kgl. Psychiatrischen Klinik zu Breslau. Carl Marhold, Halle. P. Hoeber, New York. 1.80 mk.

To Magnus Huss, perhaps, more than to any other observer, is due the general conception of the many-sided picture that constitutes "chronic alcoholism." From the mental side it has become more and more evident that the continued use of alcoholic liquors may bring about serious psychotic states. The delimitation of delirium tremens and acute alcoholic hallucinosis among these states has become almost a commonplace of psychiatry.

In addition to these forms which share a favorable prognosis with other acute poisonous states due to alcohol, there are a great number of conditions which have been described by many observers, and which develop slowly and have an unfavorable outcome. The picturing of the symptomatology of these unfavorable forms has been attempted by a large number of observers, the author being one of the latest to subject them to critical analysis.

In a comparatively small monograph, 81 pages, he has given a historical and critical résumé of the development of our knowledge concerning some of the aspects of the chronic alcoholic psychoses, and in a very clear and precise manner has presented his views concerning the relationships between alcohol and the chronic paranoid states so often described as the natural consequences of prolonged drinking. That alcohol may be *sui generis* the cause of some of these conditions, the author does not deny, but he says the matter is not entirely settled, and he is disposed to doubt the etiological role of alcohol as the initial cause of many of these paranoid states. The monograph cannot fail to be of service, especially to those who are interested in conservative psychiatry. JELLIFFE.

NEUROTIC DISORDERS OF CHILDHOOD. BY B. K. RACHFORD, M.D., Professor of Diseases of Children, Medical College of Ohio, University of Cincinnati. E. B. Treat & Co., New York.

Rarely does the reviewer find a book in which the individual point of view of the author is so consistently and systematically kept before him as the basis for a logical explanation of the phenomena discussed as in the recent volume on the Neurotic Disorders of Childhood. This point of view is briefly summarized in the statement that the modifications in the course of nervous disorders which characterize the period of childhood are due to the deficiency of cell inhibition at this time of life.

The volume is divided into two parts. Part I. contains treatises upon the normal function of nerve cells, the physiological peculiarities of the nervous system during infancy and childhood, and the etiological factors favoring neuroses in the young.

Part II. is devoted to the consideration of individual neuroses. In this section the chapter given to migraine is particularly to be commended. It will be found a complete and competent treatment of the subject.

It is significant of a present trend of medical thought that considerable prominence is given to the power of suggestion in the management of hysterical patients. Again, under the treatment of epilepsy this point is touched upon, but contrary to what one would expect from the light of recent experience. The value of educational measures is almost entirely disregarded, whereas a distinct emphasis is placed upon the exhibition of the bromids.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt as to the genuine value of the work. It shows the result of careful and accurate observation and logical interpretation.