

ORGANIC AND FUNCTIONAL NERVOUS DISEASES. A Text-Book on Neurology. By M. Allen Starr, M.D., Ph.D., LL.D., S.C.B. 4th edition, thoroughly revised. Lea & Febiger, New York, and Philadelphia.

We have had occasion to review the earlier editions of Dr. Starr's well-known text-book. As the best representative of the work of the American School it stands out by its clarity of statement and its richness of illustration. There is no doubt as to what the author means, for he has a trenchant and positive style which, with the copious illustrations, gives the book a pedagogic value that has been much appreciated, as evidenced by the fact of the comparatively rapid appearance of one edition after another. Special attention has been devoted in this new edition to the vasomotor disorders, and a much more extended consideration of functional disturbances has been given. "Good wine needs no bush," and to further call attention to the many attractive and useful features of this book would be unnecessary as it is so well known.

JELLIFFE.

THE PSYCHONEUROSES AND THEIR TREATMENT BY PSYCHOTHERAPY. By Professor J. Dejerine and Dr. E. Gauckler. Translated by Smith Ely Jelliffe, M.D. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

The translation of this work, comment upon which was made in our Book Chat some time ago, has just appeared from the press of J. B. Lippincott & Co. It makes a very creditable volume from the standpoint of the publisher's art, and a very useful one to the practitioner. Dejerine takes the well known standpoint so manifest in most of his teaching, that the psychoneuroses are primarily of emotional origin. This is sound physiology and follows the well known lines of practically all modern interpretation of mental phenomena, namely that the instinctive life, which is largely emotional, plays a much more manifest rôle in guiding conduct, in its healthy as well as in its sick manifestations, than does the intelligence. As intelligence is of much later origin in the course of evolution than feeling, it is quite comprehensible that Dejerine's thesis needs very little proof.

The work is divided into three parts. In the first the authors outline the rich symptomatology found in the psychoneuroses. In the second the discussion of the psychological nature of the symptoms is taken up, while in the third the therapy is considered. This leads to a certain amount of duplication, and also some tautology, which however is no drawback to the work, although at times it renders it somewhat prolix. Rather, this reiteration has its uses, inasmuch as the subject of the psychoneuroses is of such transcendent importance, and becoming more so every day, that driving home some very homely truths is after all highly desirable.

The general attitude of mind in the book is to discuss the symptoms. The authors do not attempt clinical pictures. They therefore take up the symptoms as they appear in various somatic organs—respiratory, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, cardiac, etc. The symptoms are graphically portrayed, even if somewhat hastily sketched and throughout the emphasis is laid upon the emotional content. One sees at once that Dejerine would get away in part from the dialectics of Dubois, although probably, as a matter of actual practice, any discussion of symptoms such as portrayed in the third part of the book would lead naturally to considerable dialectical exposition.