

weigh 10 lb. unbound. The fifth German edition, from which the late Dr. Alexander Bruce's English translation⁶ was made, was published in 1908. Since that time increasing progress has been made in neurology, as Professor Oppenheim points out, particularly in our knowledge of the etiology of infantile paralysis, the reactions indicative of syphilitic infection, the discovery of salvarsan, the connexions between the various ductless glands and the diseases associated with their disorders, and in many other directions that cannot now be detailed. So much is this the case that he doubts whether any single man can hope to cover the whole field of modern neurology any longer. The first volume begins with 112 pages on the methods of examining the general symptomatology of patients with nervous disorders. Then follow 400 pages on diseases of the spinal cord, and 250 on those of the peripheral nerves. The second volume is given up to the diseases of the brain (600 pages), the neuroses including hysteria and neurasthenia, and a number of rarer nervous disorders that find no place elsewhere. The book ends with an excellent index. Professor Oppenheim writes with the double authority of a very extensive personal observation of nervous diseases on the one hand, and on the other with a considerable acquaintance with the literature of neurology; it is, perhaps, natural that the German writers on the subject should be by far the most freely quoted in a German textbook. His style is clear, his sentences not over-long—he does not indulge, as many of his countrymen do, in “Long constructions, strange, and plusquam-Thucydidean,” like those of the joyous Sir Hector in Clough's poem. The book is thoroughly up to date, and the illustrations, nearly a hundred of them new, form a most valuable series. Professor Oppenheim's work is already familiar to all neurologists, and stands in no need of further eulogiums at our hands; its sixth edition fully maintains the high standard set by its former issues, and is indispensable as a monumental and trustworthy book of reference for all who want to know all about nervous diseases.

Dr. ROBERT BING's textbook of nervous diseases,⁷ designed for the use of medical students and practitioners, takes the form of thirty lectures, in which these diseases are considered seriatim. Lectures, he believed in his student days, were the least tedious form in which the knowledge demanded by examiners could be acquired. He has adopted an eclectic attitude in writing his textbook, and devotes a good deal of space to the treatment of the nervous disorders he describes. The first five lectures are given to diseases of the peripheral nerves and the dyskinesias; then follow chapters on the progressive muscular atrophies, spastic paralyses, ataxias, and other spinal disorders. Four chapters are allowed to syphilis of the central nervous system; tabes is considered at length, but—perhaps by an oversight—without any mention of the name of Grasset of Montpellier when the deep anaesthesia of tabetics is under discussion. The remaining sixteen chapters deal with such subjects as arterio-sclerosis of the central nervous system, its acute infections, cerebral haemorrhage and softening, cerebral tumours, congenital cerebral defects, diseases of the cerebellum, epilepsy, neurasthenia, and other subjects. Dr. Bing includes two lectures on exophthalmic goitre, myxoedema, Addison's disease, acromegaly, and other “dysglandular syndromes,” as he calls them, that one would not expect to find in a textbook of nervous diseases written in this country. It may be noted that Graves described the disease—now known as exophthalmic goitre, its French name translated into English—in 1835, Basedow in 1843, so that Dr. Bing is hardly correct in stating that these two physicians described it simultaneously about the year 1840. Dr. Bing writes clearly, and his book is readable and not overloaded with detail. It may be recommended to advanced students of medicine and to practitioners who are in want of a sound and simple German textbook of nervous diseases.

⁶ Reviewed in BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, February 24th, 1912, p. 434.

⁷ *Lehrbuch der Nervenkrankheiten für Studierende und praktische Ärzte*. In 30 Vorlesungen. By Dr. R. Bing. Berlin and Vienna: Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1913. (Sup. roy. 8vo, pp. 614; figs. 111. Paper covers, Mks. 18; bound, Mks. 20.)

OBSTETRICS.

THE latest addition to the literature from the Edinburgh School of Obstetrics has appeared in the form of a *Guide to Midwifery*,⁸ by Dr. D. BERRY HART. A knowledge of obstetrics to be of any value must be essentially practical, and in his book the author has made an attempt to urge the importance of this on the receptive mind of the student by suggesting such practical work as it is possible for him to carry out in the circumstances. The book has been written in two parts, the former of which contains the necessary facts of obstetrics, and from it all cumbersome theories have been omitted. In the second part notes have been added to be as it were appendages to the chapters of the first part. This portion also includes a summary of the more recent theories advanced, with an account of the literature, and is intended to be studied only on the second reading of the book and by those who seek a more intimate knowledge of their subject. This arrangement has much to recommend it. The book is obviously intended for those who are commencing their studies in this subject, and Dr. Hart is one of the few authors who apparently appreciate that the average mind, when entering for the first time into the unknown realm of a new subject, is best directed along the main road and is merely confused by being continually diverted along doubtful by-paths. In a textbook presenting many excellent points we must confess to a little disappointment at the rather meagre account given at times under the heading of treatment, and we are sure that this feeling will be shared by the practitioner, who will expect more helpful advice in the handling of, for example, a case of occipito-posterior presentation from a man of the experience of Dr. Hart than is at present to be found in the dozen lines that deal with this subject. The author has wisely not hesitated to make use of a number of the excellent illustrations that are to be found in some of the Continental works, with the result that a volume has been produced that is to be regarded as a clear and useful exposition and one that is destined to take a high place among the present-day textbooks on midwifery.

In his *Manual of Midwifery*⁹ Dr. G. BALFOUR MARSHALL, of Glasgow, produces in book form the notes and diagrams he has been in the habit of issuing to the students who attend his classes. To those who have been so fortunately placed the book will no doubt be welcome. The title can hardly be considered to be in keeping with the general style of the book, and does not appear to have been very happily chosen. Causes, symptoms, etc., are arranged in series. It is claimed that the more common everyday subjects are dealt with at some length, and receive fuller recognition than those less commonly met with in general practice. We cannot, however, help feeling that the selection has not always been wise. For example, it is difficult to agree that a subject of the importance of the pyelitis of pregnancy should be dismissed in a brief dozen lines. Under the heading of treatment the reader is so frequently confronted with a list of the various suggestions made by different authorities, that it is refreshing to come across a clear and concise account of the particular views held by such a competent authority as the author. This tendency towards the dogmatic might well be more closely imitated by those authors who are in a position to give an opinion based upon personal experience. The illustrations have been produced from blocks prepared from the author's diagrams. In a number of instances they seem to need more explanation. The volume is not intended to rank amongst the textbooks on the subject, but many of the author's old pupils will doubtless be glad to have in compact book form those notes and diagrams which they possessed in their student days.

CORRECTION.

In the review of the English edition of Dr. Charles Richet's book on *Anaphylaxis*, published in the JOURNAL of July 12th, page 76, the number of pages should have been given as 266 and not 78 as stated.

⁸ *Guide to Midwifery*. By D. B. Hart, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. London: Reisman, Limited. 1912. (Med. 8vo, pp. 789; plates, 4, figs. 255, 25s. net.)
⁹ *A Manual of Midwifery for Students and Practitioners*. By G. Balfour Marshall, M.D., C.M., F.R.F.P.S.G. Glasgow: J. Maclehoose and Sons. 1912. (Med. 8vo, pp. 419; plates 9, figs. 125, 14s. net.)