

well as one of the best informed works on nervous diseases. It is written in a style that is at once crisp and lucid. Exception may be taken to occasional lapses into colloquial Americanisms, and to an occasional looseness of statement which is out of place in a work of this high class.

The various departments of the subject are so clearly arranged as to be readily consulted by the busy practitioner, and at the same time the work is one eminently well suited for the senior student of neurology. If we were to pick out any portion of the work as being specially valuable, we should mention the chapter on functional diseases, and in particular the account of neurasthenia and its treatment.

The author has written on this subject with a fulness of knowledge and a breezy common sense which render his account of exceptional value. On the other hand, the trophic and vaso-motor disorders are too briefly described, myxœdema getting little over one page, and cretinism a still smaller space. The other sections on diseases of the cord and brain are very full, and they are well illustrated, a large proportion of the diagrams being borrowed (with acknowledgment) from the works of others. The book concludes with two very valuable chapters on the disorders of sleep and on neurological therapeutics, the latter being characterised by a preciseness and a detail which will render it particularly acceptable to the busy practitioner.

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*Metopismus.* By G. BUSCHAU. *Real-Encyclopädie der gesammten Heilkunde.* Berlin, 1897.

Dr. Buschau's paper is devoted to a careful consideration of the frequency and the cause of persistence of the frontal suture (or metopism). In the first part of the paper it is noted that the condition is present in from 5·9 per cent. to 12·5 per cent. of the natives of the various European nations, but that in the coloured races the percentage is very much lower, the average being about 2 per cent. The position, which is not exactly in the middle line, and the associated peculiarities of the other parts of the head are then described. Buschau concludes by stating that the persistent frontal suture is a sign of intellectual superiority, not a reversion to an inferior type, and that it is probably due more to the active growth of the cerebral hemispheres than to abnormal weakness of the frontal bones.