

reflex, which is slow, and disappears with development and growth. The Moro is an extension reflex, the startle a flexion one.

There is an exaggeration of the startle pattern in catatonia, whilst it is absent in epilepsy. This is surprising.

The startle pattern serves as an important diagnostic sign between epilepsy and hysterical seizures.

There would appear to be considerable room for experimental work on the startle pattern in relation to psychiatry. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Traumatic Mental Disorders in Courts of Law. By W. A. BREND, M.A., M.D., B.Sc., Barrister-at-Law. W. Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd. Pp. 104. Price 7s. 6d.

The author reviews the effects of the 1914-18 war in producing neuroses and psychoses, pointing out that it had little effect on the incidence of the latter.

He emphasizes that there is no relation between the degree of neurosis and the severity of the shock or injury which initiated the symptoms, and he deplors that doctors will ascribe anxiety and other neuroses solely to a physical injury.

He discusses the effect of fright before receiving the injury and the influence of suggestion in producing neurotic symptoms, and shows these are sometimes amplified by faulty medical handling.

He points out that anxiety symptoms which develop while awaiting compensation need to be differentiated from similar preceding symptoms, and he attacks the generalization that symptoms necessarily abate on the settlement of compensation. The effect of brooding on the accident is discussed with illustrative cases. The obvious facts that compensation for hysteria is never claimed as such is stated, and it is this fact that leads to so much confused and faulty nomenclature.

There is a disappointingly brief reference to the post-concussional syndrome. The book in general is a plea for the proper understanding for the basis of this type of neuroses, and many practical legal and other aspects of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the work of the medical referee are discussed. The author would like the powers of the medical referee increased, and he criticizes the Home Office Committee report, and makes counter-proposals as regards Appeal Tribunal. The book is essentially practical, and is not addressed only to the medical profession. A. A. W. PETRIE.