

Diseases of the Nervous System. By F. M. R. WALSHE, *O.B.E.*, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1940. Pp. xiii + 288. Price 12s. 6d.

This very excellent but concise book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with general principles, the second with the more common nervous diseases. We would have liked to see in the section dealing with the treatment of epilepsy more emphasis placed on the maintenance of the patient's self-respect by means of simple psychotherapy. The epileptic realizes so well his dreadful handicap in life that kindness, sympathy and help mean far more to him than to anyone. Although psychotherapy in the form of psycho-analysis is of little use to the epileptic, simple measures can be of great assistance.

It is a difficult task to compress what is a very large and difficult subject into a small compass suitable for the average student and for the general practitioner, but the author has certainly succeeded very well; whether there is any real gain when this book is compared with the section dealing with nervous diseases in a good text-book of medicine is another matter.

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Neurosyphilis. (Modern Medicine Monographs.) By C. WORSTER DROUGHT, M.A., M.D. London: John Bale, Sons & Staples, Ltd., 1940. Pp. 241. Price 10s. 6d.

The author of this monograph, which is one of a series on modern medicine, points out that the book is principally intended for practitioners and students, but hopes that it may prove of interest to neurologists and syphilologists, as undoubtedly it will. The subject has mainly been approached from the clinical aspect, and the classification and description of the various syphilitic lesions of the central nervous system are admirable, as might be expected. Considerable attention is also devoted to the pathology of neurosyphilitic lesions, and the text is accompanied by excellent illustrations. An account of the historical development of the modern concept of neurosyphilis and its treatment lends further interest to the monograph.

The least satisfactory part is that which deals with treatment, and the author does not seem to have appreciated fully the potentialities of the methods of therapy now available. He rightly points out that the meningo-vascular forms of cerebral syphilis usually respond well to trivalent arsenic and the heavy metals, and he gives detailed instructions concerning their administration. Tryparsamide, on the other hand, is dismissed very briefly as an adjunct to the treatment of general paresis by malaria, and the other pentavalent arsenical preparations are hardly mentioned, yet there is ample evidence available at the present time to prove that these compounds may be of great value in the treatment of general paralysis, tabes, or asymptomatic neurosyphilis and may be used as an alternative to, or in combination with other forms of therapy. Attention is drawn to the value of malaria for the treatment of parenchymatous neurosyphilis, but only benign tertian is described. Mention is not even made of quartan, though this species of malaria is invaluable for the treatment of those who have acquired immunity to benign tertian. Blood inoculation is claimed to be preferable to mosquito bites, but this opinion is not shared by those in charge of the Horton Malaria Therapy Centre. Mention is made of the advantages of giving the fever in two stages as originally recommended by Wagner-Jauregg, but the dose of quinine here recommended