

There is a very good index, and a comprehensive glossary, but we should hardly have thought it necessary for the twenty million superior adults in the States to be told how to pronounce epilepsy, conflict or idiot!

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The Patient and the Weather. By WILLIAM F. PETERSEN. Vol. I. Part II: Autonomic Integration. Michigan: Edwards Bros., 1936. Price \$9.00.

This huge volume of 780 pages continues and amplifies the point of view developed in the preceding volumes. The author maintains that his object is to make obvious the close integration between the human organism and the immediate atmospheric environment. He has centred his interest to a considerable degree around the blood-pressure. He begins this volume with an account of constitution, "because so few practitioners of the younger generation have been taught to think of it even in its simplest terms". We doubt if the younger generation ever paid more attention to constitution than they do at present.

The writer promises us that in Volume III he is going to give us the evidence that in the psychoses we deal very probably with (1) a defective substrate, defective in part because of purely genotypic factors, in part probably because of injury early in the segmentation of the embryo and due to meteorological effects on the maternal organism, and (2) with fatigue and injury later in the extra-uterine life, when the defective substrate must meet unduly severe environmental conditions, frequently meteorological. We were afraid this would happen!

The book is full of diagrams and charts showing the enormous amount of work which has been expended.

One wonders whether the pyknic individual during a thunderstorm really suffers from "elements of fright and anxiety due to thunder, lightning, darkness, wind, rain torrents, etc." Surely the human organism was rather better adapted to his environment than this. We doubt whether there is a "well-known association" between the precipitation of acute psychoses and the sudden change in the atmosphere associated with the thunderstorm. When the writer turns his attention to the criminal we find that in the State of Illinois at all events criminals tend to have been conceived in the spring months and fewer in August, which is a distinctly more unstable month.

There is provided a table showing the number of epileptic seizures month by month in a group of 75 patients in the Kankakee State Hospital. The highest number occurred in September and the lowest in June and July. It would be interesting to compare these figures with much larger ones in the British Isles. It is difficult to reconcile the low figure of 6.5 for July with 8.7 for August, and it does suggest that much larger figures properly considered might show that there is little difference between the various months of the year. It is a great pity that there is no index to this book.

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