

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Neurology.

Ankle-Clonus: The Distinction of the Organic and Functional Varieties. (*Brain, June, 1928.*) Lyman, L. S.

Although sustained ankle-clonus is usually considered to be an indication of a lesion involving the pyramidal tract, a more or less regular clonus can be demonstrated on occasion in the absence of other evidence of anatomical affection. These "organic" and "functional" types of clonus may be distinguished by a simple test, consisting of forcible plantar flexion of the homolateral hallux while ankle-clonus is being maintained. If the clonus is checked, an organic lesion in the central nervous system is postulated.

The article opens with an historical review of ankle-clonus and the above-described procedure is discussed. The method and apparatus devised for obtaining graphic records are also given, together with two records by way of illustration.

WM. McWILLIAM.

The Central Nervous Control of Micturition. (*Brain, June, 1928.*) Barrington, F. J. F.

The author concludes that the reflex contraction of the bladder, which occurs through the pelvic nerves as a result of its own distension, arises in the central nervous system at about the level of a plane through the posterior parts of the inferior colliculi dorsally and the middle of the pons ventrally. The author proceeds to examine the reflexes which make up the act of micturition; of these he discusses five, and he ends his paper with a comparative review of the functions and control of the urinary bladder in various mammals, reptiles and fishes.

WM. McWILLIAM.

The Narcolepsies. (*Brain, March, 1928.*) Wilson, S. A. K.

In a paper of wide scope and detail, Dr. Kinnier Wilson treats of the narcolepsies, defining them—for the purpose of the paper—as the hypersomnic varieties of sleep disorder, whatever their ætiology, among which it is convenient to distinguish a combined type corresponding to that so well differentiated by Gélinau.

He describes five "personal cases," discusses classification and varieties, the clinical symptoms, and the relation of narcolepsy to other syndromes, including those of myoplegia, catalepsy, epilepsy and Oppenheim's *Lachschlag*.