

Hydrocephalus is a common accompaniment of the Arnold-Chiari deformity. Professor Russell contests the theory that the characteristic elongation of the medulla and herniation of cerebellar tissue through the foramen magnum are due to the fixation of the spinal cord at the site of the commonly present lumbar meningo-myelocele. The cerebral malformation may, in fact, be absent in certain cases despite the tethering of the spinal cord within the sacral canal, while it may be present in cases of high spina bifida or meningocele affecting thoracic segments.

Meningeal fibrosis resulting from the action of a variety of non-bacterial agents is a pathogenetic factor common to many obscure forms of hydrocephalus. In some varieties of lipoidosis affecting the nervous system, as, for example, in gargoylism, irritation and proliferation of the arachnoid cells due to the presence of particles of abnormal lipoid may lead to interference with the circulation of the C.S.F. through the subarachnoid spaces. Similarly, adhesions in the subarachnoid space or even in the ventricular system itself may follow the meningeal haemorrhages of birth injury or the subependymal bleedings of prenatal origin which are sometimes found in premature infants. Mention is also made of the post-meningitic varieties of hydrocephalus that are seen in early infancy, this type of illness being of an unusual clinical pattern which is often overlooked. There is, furthermore, the interesting possibility of intrauterine meningeal infection occurring in cases where prolonged labour is associated with maternal infections of various sorts.

In conclusion, let a word of gratitude be said to the author of this finely illustrated and highly instructive monograph for refraining from having it published as an expensive volume of Teutonic proportions. In its present comparatively modest form it is astonishingly good value for six shillings, and will be bought and read by all pathologists.

R. M. NORMAN.

**Psychological Medicine.** By DESMOND CURRAN and E. GUTTMANN.  
Third edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., 1949. Price 12s. 6d.

The third edition of this very popular introduction to psychiatry has had additions made to the sections on Mental Deficiency, Schizophrenia and Hysteria.

In the chapter on schizophrenia it is gratifying to see paranoia separated from paraphrenia. The former, although certainly an uncommon condition, is quite a different clinical condition from paraphrenia.

In the chapter on the legal aspects of mental illness, the authors on p. 212 might have mentioned the usual method of discharge of a private certified patient, i.e. by order of the petitioner, and that this also applies to a temporary patient, only in this case it is the individual who makes the application for temporary treatment of the patient who is able to order his discharge. The chapter on legal aspects might well be expanded in the next edition without adding much to the size of the book.

This still remains the best short textbook on psychological medicine, and it is with a very deep regret that we mourn the death of Dr. Guttmann who has been an ornament to British psychiatry since he came to this country.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

**An Introduction to Physical Methods of Treatment in Psychiatry.**  
By WILLIAM SARGANT and ELIOT SLATER. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1948. Price 10s. 6d.

The second edition of this excellent book is an improvement on the first edition. A chapter has been added on the treatment of the epilepsies by Denis Hill.