

*Metabolism and Practical Medicine.* By CARL VON NOORDEN. English issue under the editorship of I. WALKER HALL. London: Heineman, 1907. Price, complete in 3 vols., £2 12s. 6d. nett.

This translation is now before us in the first two volumes. The third volume is not yet to hand. The first volume deals with the Physiology of Metabolism in relation to Food-stuffs, Digestion, and Absorption, Fate of the Food-stuffs in the Tissues, and Metabolism in Man. The new view that the splitting up of the protein in the intestines is that the albumen of the food can be changed into the albumen of the tissues. The chemistry of the process is shown to be more complicated than was formerly believed, for the organism can interchange the proteins of tissues. Thus the intestinal process is not complete in itself, still the defect of intestinal physiological processes may seriously affect the general economy, and in cases of insanity form the nidus of disease. The specific ferments, which act on proteins, are now recognised, and the physiological chemistry of such bodies as uric acid and purin bases is discussed at length. In dealing with the average efficient intake of proteids it is stated that "one may scarcely call in question Professor Chittenden's results, but his conclusions are rather too general and are scarcely warranted," and, further, "those suffering from illness—the liver, kidneys, and, perhaps, above all, the nervous system—may be injuriously affected by such a diet." It is not likely that Professor Chittenden would press his conclusions to such extremities; the dietary which he prescribed for experimental purposes affecting healthy males must of course be adapted to the circumstances of disorder and degeneration.

Much was expected from over-feeding and massage when it was introduced by Dr. Weir-Mitchell, little good has resulted in asylum practice. We find it stated in this work that "the direct effect of massage has been extraordinarily over-estimated."

The second volume is of great practical interest. It deals with Hunger and Chronic Starvation, Over-feeding, Fever and Infection, and the various diseases of the bodily organs and systems. The result is a treatise on the metabolism of diseased conditions, an explanation of morbid phenomena of the highest importance. Professor von Noorden has associated with himself authors whose studies are authoritative in the domain of physiology and pathology, and the relations of metabolism in health and disease. For those who are endeavouring to illuminate the dark places of psychiatry the work is indispensable.

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*Zur Psycho-pathologie des Alltagsleben* [*The Psycho-pathology of Everyday Life*]. By Prof. S. FREUD. 2nd Edition. Berlin: Karger, 1907. Pp. 132, 8vo. Price mk. 3.50.

In this volume (which is enlarged from a pamphlet published several years ago) Prof. Freud discusses such problems as the causes of forgetfulness (more especially in the case of fairly familiar facts), lapses of speech and of action, and, more generally, the significance of trifling, involuntary, even unconscious actions and words as the expression of