

mature men who, unable to resist, have been led to suicide. Otto Weininger, Schroetter, Tansk and Silberer are cited, and a French case is alluded to.

The fourth chapter, "General Conclusions," deals mostly with philosophical considerations, the necessity of a new philosophical Dualism, and is of minor importance to the psychologist. The criticism of psycho-analysis is to the point, but the author makes one mistake. He says: "Modern psychology made a grievous error when it took the word 'unconscious' seriously; it has filled this empty notion with imaginary mechanisms, and it will get deeper and deeper into the mire if it continues on that road." Surely our author confounds "psycho-analytical hypothesis" with psychology. The general trend of modern psychology, if not to attack the notion of the unconscious, is completely to ignore it; it has no recognized standing.

The book is worth a careful study. The criticisms of details, to which only a few allusions can be made here, are pertinent, but it is to be expected that they will, as usual, remain unanswered by the exponents of psycho-analysis.

A. W.

Convulsions et Epilepsie chez les Enfants. Par Dr. ANDRÉ COLLIN.
Paris: Gastoin Doin et Cie, 1926. 5½ × 8¼ in. Pp. 204.
Price 21 fr.

This is a short monograph upon the convulsions observed in infants and young children. The questions which the author discusses are, first, What is the reason of the greater susceptibility to convulsions of the nervous tissue of the young? And, secondly, Are there any signs by which an observer can say in any particular case whether a convulsive crisis is "benign" and not likely to recur, or is it the first evidence of an early and probably continuing epilepsy? In answer to the first question, he contributes some interesting pages upon the endocrine glandular secretion, the calcium metabolism and certain toxic and other influences, and concludes that the convulsive susceptibility of the nervous tissue of infants and young children depends upon the functional and histological isolation of certain groups or zones of nerve-cells, upon hormonal insufficiency and upon impaired or lessened calcium metabolism.

In the second or clinical section of the book he deals with what are termed the "signs of gravity," by which the physician may be able to distinguish the simple convulsion from the fit of a commencing epilepsy. This is an important clinical matter, from the view-points both of prognosis and treatment. Nothing new, however, would appear to be added by the author to our already existing knowledge of this subject. From the side of heredity he lays more stress on the influence of parental alcoholism or a neuropathic family history than on parental epilepsy.

The book is interesting, and deserves the attention of those who study the nervous maladies of childhood.

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