

The Form and Functions of the Central Nervous System. By F. TILNEY, M.D., and H. A. RILEY, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., 1938. Third edition. Pp. xxxvii + 851. 600 illustrations. Price 50s.

This well-known book needs no introduction to the neurologist or the psychiatrist. It is indeed a masterpiece, and it is not possible to find much fault with it. This is the third edition; in it the colouring of the illustrations has been dispensed with, and the subject-matter condensed. The book, because of its thoroughness, cannot be otherwise than bulky. Alterations have been made in the sections dealing with the hypothalamic structures, the hypophysis and epiphysis, the interstitial tissues and the cortex. The section dealing with the cerebellum has also been radically altered, the terminology of Bolk being now widely used. Where the authors deal with the cerebral cortex they adopt the system of Brodmann, together with the simple terms of Campbell. This is certainly a great improvement. We do not like to see under the heading of "The Syndrome of the Hypothalamus" an ordinary case of acromegaly due to an enlarged pituitary which was removed at operation. In the same way the syndrome of Laundis is regarded as a pituitary syndrome and not a hypothalamic one. There are generally stated to be five hypothalamic syndromes: hypothermia due to involvement of the posterior nuclei, hyper-somnia due to lesions of the posterior nuclei and mammillary bodies, Fröhlich's syndrome from a lesion of the tuber cinereum, diabetes insipidus due to lesion of the supra-optic nuclei, and autonomic epilepsy.

There is great difficulty in a book of this size in keeping it up to date, and two more editions in eighteen years means that previous editions are considerably behind the times before the next appears. We suggest that if the anatomy and physiology had been kept in separate volumes it might have been possible to keep the latter subject more up to date, and incidentally provide a volume which would be not quite so unwieldy. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Analysis of Parergasia. By GLADYS C. TERRY and THOMAS A. C. RENNIE, M.D. New York: Nervous and Mental Disease Monographs, No. 64, 1938. Pp. 202. Price \$4.

This monograph is based on a series of 77 cases diagnosed as parergasia. The term is used in preference to dementia præcox or schizophrenia "in order to avoid one-sided bias or emphasis". Parergasia is taken to mean "those disturbances developing in particular constitutional types and expressed in vague, artistic fancy, projections, passivity, paranoid systematization, formal disorders of language and behaviour, incongruity of affect and mobility disturbances". The whole study is, of course, one of reaction types, as is usual in American psychiatry. Is it too much to hope that anyone can give us control figures from normal people who have been submitted to the same stresses as the various reaction types, and have *not* broken down! The parergasic group is subdivided into six reaction types—aggressive reaction, conversion reaction, passivity reaction, deliroid reaction, affective reaction, defeatist reaction. Some of these groups are further divided, i.e., the defeatist reaction has a day-dreaming type, an empty and vague type, and a deteriorated child-like type. The authors' grouping is to some extent tentative, and shows a change from one type to another. When dealing with the life-histories the authors say that "eighteen mothers were described as over-solicitous, over-possessive, over-indulgent, domineering, nagging, over-ambitiously pushing, etc." Most of this description might accommodate the average mother! In the same way