

left hemisphere. He has observed that amongst one hundred and twenty-five epileptics twenty-two were left-handed, that is, 17.5 per cent. That a deficiency of one hemisphere may sometimes be the beginning of left-handedness may be admitted, without recognising this abnormality to be in all cases a sign of degeneration or disease. It has not been found that left-handed people are really more awkward or less intelligent than the right-handed. They are often put to a disadvantage at school, as the teachers steadily forbid them using the hand which is natural to them. I never met with a teacher who would admit that any child should be allowed to write with his left hand. Thus, between their practice in the playground and their discipline in the school, the left-handed generally become ambidextrous. There is a society in London, comprising some distinguished persons, the aim of which is to train people to have equal use of both right and left hands. One of their arguments is that this would keep both the hemispheres of the brain in active function, and that this might have an effect in increasing the general intelligence.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

*Migraine* [*Discussion sur les Formes Cliniques des Neuralgies*]. (Rev. de Psychiat., Sept., 1908.) Hartenberg, M.

The author expresses his opinion that although migraine is a vascular neurosis, it is really a paroxysmal neuralgia of the cervical sympathetic system which is irritated.

But whilst one generally explains the pain by a vascular spasm compressing the sensory nerve-endings in the arterial walls, he considers that it is due to a primary irritation of the sympathetic system, and that the vascular variations and pain are not consecutive but only associated; this theory will permit one to understand that intense certain vaso-constrictions may not be painful, and can be applied as well to the two forms, vaso-spastic or vaso-dilatation, of hemicrania. Although the cause of the irritation may be obscure, he considers that one of the most frequent is muscular rheumatism of the neck, since, when this is cured by constant currents and massage, the migraine ceases.

SIDNEY CLARKE.

*An Insane (?) Malingerer*. (Amer. Journ. of Insanity, April, 1908.) Drew, C. A.

On July 17th, 1905, J. H—, æt. 35, married, was committed to the State Asylum for Insane Criminals from the State Prison at Charlestown, where he was serving a life sentence for murder in the second degree. Six months previously, he had been committed to prison for shooting a woman in a drunken brawl. He had cohabited with this woman, who had jilted him, and had contracted syphilis from her. He had been a pool-room proprietor, bar-tender, and lottery agent, and had been known in his native city as "Joe the Snake," and "Joe the Fox," and for some years before this homicidal act as "Crazy Joe." He had drunk to excess for the last two years. In the opinion of both the physicians who committed him to the asylum, he was more or less of an imbecile and incapable of doing much work owing to sheer stupidity. He was suspicious and pretended to be more simple and foolish than he really was. Notes taken during the first four months after his admission to