

creates a world of his own in which he himself usually figures as the hero. This is the origin of his delusions of grandeur. He imagines he is a scholar, a saint, a superman. His acquaintance with languages and with mysticism may lead him to believe he is able to speak a language unknown to others; this belief helps to convince him that he is unique. The influence of delusions secondary to phantasy-formation thus becomes apparent in true glossolalia.

Education has little influence in the causation of pseudo-incoherence, as it develops in the illiterate quite as often as in the highly educated individual. On the other hand both glossomania and true glossolalia are, as a rule, found among patients whose education has reached a fairly high standard. The author has found that these patients are frequently able to speak other languages than their own, and it is owing to the fact that the patient has a particular inclination and sometimes a real aptitude for expressing himself in more than one language, that he feels impelled to employ some language other than those with which he is already acquainted. The author insists that chronic delusions are the fundamental cause of all three types of neological speech. Next in importance he places mental excitement, though this is least in evidence in true glossolalia.

Dr. Teulié has carefully sifted the evidence of previous writers on the subject, and made an exhaustive analysis of cases under his own observation. The book is an important contribution to psychiatry and should be of great practical value.

NORMAN R. PHILLIPS.

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*Psychophysiologie et Psychopathologie du Corps Thyroïde.* Par le Dr. A. Sicco, Professeur de Psychiatrie à la Faculté de Médecine de Montevideo. Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. Crown 8vo. Pp. 100. Price 10 fr.

Dr. Sicco's instructive little book is a valuable contribution to the Félix Alcan series. Its hundred pages contain much of the recent work on the ductless glands. Throughout, his viewpoint is typically Gallic, in that he endeavours to correlate psychological processes with their physiological equivalents. Such works are valuable as a corrective to those publications which neglect the physical processes of mind.

The book commences with a *résumé* of glandular activity in relation to pathological conditions. The writer then proceeds to a detailed account of thyroid function, the *rôle* it plays in foetal life and later, in the growth of the individual, and its effects on the psychic life and the instinctive reactions both in the normal and abnormal. English writers will not have much difficulty in accepting the majority of the premises put forward; one statement, however, appears contrary to neurological teaching in this country, for on p. 30 we find an allusion to the sympathetic supply of the brain.

The last twenty pages are devoted to case-histories, with

painstaking descriptions of the hypo- and hyper-thyroid states, treatment and results.

The author concludes his book with an extensive bibliography of modern French research in the realms of endocrinology and biochemistry.

D. N. HARDCASTLE.

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*Les Obsédes.* Par RAYMOND MALLET, Ancien Chef de Clinique à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris. Paris: Gaston Doin et Cie, 1928. Crown 8vo. Pp. 100. Price 12 fr.

Dr. Séglas, of the Salpêtrière, has written a preface to this little book, in which he says that it is always difficult for one who knows a complicated subject in all its details to write "un résumé clair, net, succinct et cependant complet." We can certainly agree with him that Dr. Mallet has done well in the task.

The book is an epitome of the French view of the obsessional neuroses. The author takes his standpoint from that of Morel, amplified by that of the more modern French psychiatrists. Mention is made of the work of Freud, but the writer considers its value nullified by the insistence upon the sexual origin of obsessions; he also points out that Janet preceded Freud in suggesting a sexual significance for the psycho-neuroses.

Twelve detailed case-histories are given illustrating the various obsessional states; the physical concomitants are described and the heredity indicated in each case. The author points out that the reflexes are usually exaggerated, but that the physical condition in general does not tally with the sensations experienced by the patient. The make-up of the obsessional patient is described in detail; he has feelings of physical illness, of moral insecurity, and of intellectual impairment. There may be doubling of the personality, and pseudo-hallucinations may occur. The family history is usually found to be bad, and the patient has manifested signs of mental trouble in childhood.

These obsessional patients are contrasted with the psychotics, particularly with the melancholics and schizoids, and the question whether an obsessive state can be a prelude to a true psychosis is discussed. It is shown that while the obsessional patients have not lost touch with reality, it is their constant fear that they may do so. Dr. Mallet is careful to explain that the hallucinations are pseudo-hallucinations, the patient realizing their nature, and herein differing from the paraphrenic. The obsessional patient suffers essentially from a disorder of emotion rather than from one of the will or the intelligence.

Dr. Mallet considers that obsessional cases have a psycho-physical origin, the psychic side arising from some shock or disturbing experience in earlier life, the physical depending upon various factors, such as heredity, toxæmia, nutritional disturbances, or lack of endocrine balance.

D. N. HARDCASTLE.

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