

correlate spinal diseases with the distribution and lesions of the blood-vessels of the spinal cord.

The arrangement and origin of these vessels are first considered; and the writer points out that a transverse section of the cord may be mapped out into certain districts, according to the arterial supply. Attention is drawn to the comparatively difficult course the blood has to travel to reach the lower part of the spinal cord; this point is again specially referred to in the section dealing with *Locomotor Ataxia*. Allusion is also made to the possible pathological importance of the absence of true lymphatics in the cord, their place being taken by perivascular channels.

The writer then proceeds to discuss, under fifteen sections, several of the more common spinal diseases. His observations are based upon cases and material of his own, together with cases selected from recent literature on the subject. He describes and figures the distribution of the various lesions found, and demonstrates that they frequently correspond to one or other of the areas above referred to; and argues with much force that a vascular lesion is much more often the primary cause of the disease than is usually believed to be the case.

Dr. Williamson has condensed much thought and many observations into a few pages, and we welcome this pamphlet as a praiseworthy attempt in the right direction.

Éléments de Psychologie Humaine. Par J. J. VAN BIERVLIET.
Paris: Alcan, 1895; pp. 317. Price 8 francs.

Prof. van Biervliet, of Ghent, is probably the chief Belgian representative of the "new psychology." He has made various original investigations, working with Wundt at Leipzig and collaborating with Binet in *L'Année Psychologique*. Such a work as the present, therefore, was bound to reveal a high degree of competency.

It is, however, somewhat disappointing. Representing in substance the course of lectures delivered to the professor's students at Ghent, it has the merits and defects which commonly belong to such courses; it is clearly written, with insistence on rather formal subdivisions of the subject, while debatable matters, together with references, are systematically avoided. Such books are, not necessarily in any disparaging sense, perfunctory; they do not spring from any

vital interest in the subject, and they require to be written with rare power to arouse any vital interest in their readers.

Nearly half the volume is occupied with anatomy and physiology. An opening chapter on the cell is followed by a brief survey of the skeleton and other tissues and a more detailed description of the organs of sense. It is now becoming usual to omit such descriptions in books on psychology, and the wisdom of doing so is well illustrated by this volume. A knowledge of anatomy and physiology is part of the essential prolegomena to all knowledge of psychology, but it cannot, strictly speaking, be said to form part even of the elements of psychology. The result in this book has been that Prof. van Biervliet has found himself with no space left to deal, save in the briefest manner, with the results of experimental work, which now form so large and important a part of psychology. Dr. Scripture's little book, *Thinking, Feeling, Doing*, with all its many defects, succeeds in giving a better and more symmetrical account of the present position of the science.

La Psychologie des Sentiments. Par TH. RIBOT. Paris : Alcan, 1896. Pp. 443. Price 7frs. 50.

Prof. Ribot, the editor of the *Revue Philosophique*, and a veteran whose activity began many years ago, is the acknowledged leader of the younger experimental school of psychologists in France. He is not a man of the laboratory; his name is not associated with any physiological investigations; he is not even a fertile inventor of theories. He is chiefly known only as the author of books, which with admirable knowledge, judgment, and lucidity, summarise and focus the work and opinions of other people. Of these books the latest, which is now before us, and which deals with the feelings and emotions (we scarcely have an adequate equivalent for the French "sentiments"), is certainly one of the most important; it discusses questions of the first moment and of the greatest interest, questions, moreover, which, until James and Lange pointed out a new method of approaching them, had mostly been avoided by scientific psychologists. In dealing with these questions, Prof. Ribot displays a remarkable instinct for tracing out the "go" of the psychic mechanism, bringing every argument swiftly to a point while avoiding superfluity, and presenting the whole