

it is doubtful whether they are retarded at all. In no comparative test were the deaf a year behind.

The procedure described may be recommended to all who have to deal with the deaf and to those who have to examine alien immigrants—as, for example, in colonial ports.

F. C. SHRUBSALL.

Rachithermométrie Humaine ; recherches thermo-électriques. Par PAUL SCHIFF. Paris : Librairie Louis Arnette 1927. 10 × 6½ in. Pp. 111.

The author was first led to investigate the temperature of the cerebro-spinal fluid through noticing that in a number of lumbar punctures the temperature of the fluid was appreciably raised although the rectal temperature was normal. On searching the literature he found very few references to the subject and was satisfied that no satisfactory method for estimating the temperature of the cerebro-spinal fluid existed. His first task, therefore, was to construct a suitable instrument, and after many trials he finally constructed a thermo-electric apparatus, which appeared to give reliable results. The cerebro-spinal fluid of 68 patients was examined, the majority suffering from mental, the rest from neurological, diseases. The author came to the conclusion that the temperature of the cerebro-spinal fluid was normally 0.5° higher than that of the rectum, thus being the same as that of the "deep organs" of the body. He found that it was independent of external influences, such as motor excitement, analgesic or antithermic substances, and also apparently of the tension of the fluid. In ten cases the temperature was from 0.9° to 1.5° above the rectal, while in eight it was equal to or lower than the rectal. The author makes some tentative suggestions as to the significance of these temperatures in relation to the mental symptoms exhibited, but it is obvious that no conclusions of value can be drawn from the few cases recorded.

The author suggests that his work lends support to the theory that disturbance of heat regulation may sometimes be due to localized lesions of the nerve centres subserving this function.

The real value of this work would appear to lie in the fact that an instrument has here been devised by which the temperature of the cerebro-spinal fluid can be accurately recorded at the time the fluid is withdrawn, without causing any extra inconvenience to the patient.

P. K. McCOWAN.

Mongolism : A Study of the Physical and Mental Characteristics of Mongolian Imbeciles. By KATE BROUSSEAU and H. G. BRAINERD, M.D. London : Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 9½ × 6 in. Pp. viii + 210. Price 20s. net.

In this interesting monograph the authors bring conveniently together for comparison their personal observations and those from innumerable other sources. In an introductory chapter a short

historical survey is given of the recognition of the disease and of the work done by many of the earlier writers. The frequency of the condition, and its geographical and sex distribution are considered.

Ætiology is carefully discussed in Chapter II. The authors effectually negative as causes such conditions as neuropathic heredity, tuberculosis, alcoholism, syphilis, consanguinity, age of parents, order or frequency of birth and mental strain, and, while refraining from offering any new theory, they favour the view that the important ætiological factor in mongolism is some obscure disturbance of the ductless glands, and point out that in every mongol some endocrine disturbance can be demonstrated. The theories of Jansen and Van der Scheer are mentioned, but no criticism is offered. Crookshank's reversion theory is rejected on two grounds: first because the resemblances between the mongol and racial Mongol are superficial, and secondly because "if mongolism is a recrudescence of a dormant element we might expect to find in this unit character which declares itself a primitive and normal type. This is not the case since mongolism is truly a pathological condition." Dr. Crookshank has dealt effectually with the first objection, and with regard to the second criticism, such an argument should similarly apply to other conditions in man which are generally conceded to be reversions, *e.g.*, to rudimentary tails. The incidence of mongolism in monozygotic and dizygotic twins is carefully considered: as many as 37 cases of mongolism occurring in one or both twins are cited. Halbertsma's deductions are quoted in support of the authors' conclusions that "defects inherent in the germ-plasm can alone explain the existence of mongolism in one twin while the other is altogether normal." It may, however, be held that defect or disease at the placental area would also explain the incidence of mongolism in twins. In some fifty pages information from clinical observations, *post-mortem* findings and Roentgen-ray photography has been collected and most of what is known of the pathology and physical characteristics of the mongol recorded. Occasionally, useful comparison is made with other imbeciles, and tables showing heights, weights and measurements *in vivo* are given. The section devoted to the meagre literature on *post-mortem* findings and on cranial appearances is scarcely adequate—a detailed description of the macerated skull to clear up disputed questions would have been appreciated. A list of the anatomical anomalies and pathological disturbances found in mongols, given on p. 98, shows that by far the larger number of these occur in or about the eyes, and the authors record four cases of exophthalmos.

The nervous and mental characteristics are discussed at length. In Chapter VI, dealing with diagnosis, a complete and useful table summarizes the chief points to be considered in the differential diagnosis of mongolism, cretinism, achondroplasia and rickets. Prognosis is discussed, and valuable hints on therapy and educational training are given. Tables, charts and statistics have been drawn from over 1,000 cases, and the number of references, which fill nearly twenty pages, is a feature of the work. The photographs are good but suffer from want of attention to backgrounds, and some of the

charts would be improved if normal curves were introduced. The book is crammed with interesting facts and is very readable. It supplies a want and cannot fail to help forward the solution of the mongol problem.

R. M. CLARK.

-
- (1) *Migraine and Other Common Neuroses: A Psychological Study.* By F. G. CROOKSHANK, M.D., F.R.C.P.
 (2) *Man not a Machine: A Study of the Finalistic Aspects of Life.* By EUGENO RIGNANO. With a Foreword by Prof. HAN DRIESCH.
 (3) *Man a Machine.* By JOSEPH NEEDHAM.
 (4) *Types of Mind and Body.* By E. MILLER, M.A., M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.M.
 Psyche Miniatures. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., 1926. Demy 18mo. (1) Pp. 101; (2) pp. 77; (3) pp. 111; (4) pp. 132. Price 2s. 6d. each.

A notice of these miniatures has been involuntarily delayed owing apparently to their great popularity, which resulted in their mysterious disappearance shortly after receipt and at the moment when their turn had come to be reviewed. They had been read and appreciated by more than one critic, but further copies were needed before they could be dealt with satisfactorily. In the meantime our review columns became very crowded, and reviews have been delayed.

Though late, our welcome to the advent of these tasteful and handy little books has not lost its heartiness. The size of a book is never an index of its interest or importance, and it is remarkable how some authors can express much meaning in a few words. This is very true of Dr. Crookshank's *Migraine and other Common Neuroses*, in which there is material for a whole course of lectures, though it only comprises two, which have appeared in *Psyche* and *The Medical Press and Circular*.

Dr. Crookshank's professed purpose is to protest against the false antithesis, so long insisted upon by teachers of medicine, between functional and organic conditions. His contention is that "the unprejudiced physician will find some physical defect in every functional case, and some psychical factor in every case of organic disease." He takes "migraine and allied paroxysmal neuroses" as his text and effectively drives his lesson home. At the same time we learn a good deal about psycho-pathology and mental mechanisms. The author writes forcibly and presents his subject in a striking manner, and gives us much to think about, productive, perhaps, of not a little heart-searching as we think of the pitfalls he teaches us to avoid.

Truly psychological medicine has not yet taken its proper place in the medical curriculum. If it had, this book would have been superfluous: as things are it should be read by all practitioners. This book has the distinction of being No. 1 of the Medical Series of these miniatures.