

*The Parasensory Zones [Die Parasensorischen Zonen].* (*Psych. Neurol. Wochens.*, No. 13, March 31, 1928.) *v. Economo, C.*

Immediately adjoining the sensory cortical areas there is a narrow band of cortex characterized by the presence of large pyramidal cells, some of which reach the size of giant-cells. This band has been named the "parasensory zone." It is best seen round the striated visual area, but is also found bounding the auditory cortex and the sensory area in the ascending parietal convolution. The presence of large pyramids probably indicates the origin of efferent fibres, forming either association tracts or else motor paths, possibly for reflex movements of attention. A. WALK.

*The Cortico-thalamic Tracts in Certain Small Mammalia [Les voies cortico-thalamiques chez quelques petits mammifères].* (*Fourn. de Neur. et Psychiat.*, July, 1927.) *Hollander, Prof. Dr., and Ghisoland, Mlle. Simone.*

In this paper the authors describe their investigation of the cortico-thalamic tracts of the rat, mouse, guinea-pig and hedgehog. As a result of their studies they hold out the hope that before long the localization of thalamic function may be completed. The article is illustrated by drawings of sections prepared by the Weigert-Pal-Kultschitsky method.

R. S. GIBSON.

*The History of the Experimental Study of the Knee-Jerk.* (*Amer. Journ. of Psych.*, January, 1928.) *Fearing, F.*

The author opens his paper with the reflection that perhaps no other reflex presents so varied a history as does the knee-jerk. He proceeds to develop his thesis along these historical lines, with a chronological list of the early investigators. Reference is made to the galvanometric technique with photographic record of the thread deflections, and to the important problem of inhibition, involving the "drainage" hypothesis of McDougall.

Some 60 references are appended as foot-notes to the article.

WM. MCWILLIAM.

*Contribution to the Study of Cerebral Softening [Contribution à l'étude du ramollissement cérébral].* (*Fourn. de Neur. et Psychiat.*, November, 1927.) *Foix, C., and Ley, J.*

The full title of this long paper is "The study of cerebral softening from the point of view of its frequency, its situation, and the anatomical state of the arteries in the necrotic area." In 124 cases of serious cerebral lesion the authors found 100 cases of softening (80.65%) and 24 of hæmorrhage. In 69 cases the softening occurred in the Sylvian area, in 19 in the area supplied by the posterior cerebral artery, and in 12 in that of the anterior cerebral artery.

In 21.5% of cases the affected artery was totally, and in 25% almost