

Part II.—Reviews.

Shock Treatment. By L. B. KALINOWSKY and P. H. HOCH. London : William Heineman, 1946. Pp. xiv + 294. Price 21s.

After some account of the historical development of shock treatment the author deals with insulin shock, convulsive shock, combined insulin-convulsive shock, other somatic non-surgical treatments and prefrontal lobotomy in that order. He gives a good account of insulin shock treatment, including its various modifications. He wisely points out that subcoma doses of insulin should not replace insulin shock in the treatment of the psychoses. He quite agrees with Sargant and Slater in their views on its value in treating psychoneurotic patients, particularly in anxiety states, to make the patient more amenable to psychotherapy.

In discussing E.C.T. he quotes Sogliani as having given as many as five convulsions in from ten to twenty minutes. He gives this intensive treatment to all who fail to recover with the usual treatment. They are most valuable in acutely disturbed patients threatened by the danger of exhaustion.

In discussing prefrontal lobotomy the author quotes Fiamberta as operating through the orbita into the skull. He points out the importance of psychological treatment, post-operative treatment, and that readaptation may take months or years, and then curiously enough says that a decision as to the outcome of an individual case should not be made less than several *months* later. In our experience it is wise to wait five years before giving any hard and fast opinion.

The value of lobotomy in the treatment of psychoneuroses is emphasized, especially as E.C.T. is of little use in these conditions. We should have liked to have seen some mention of the use of lobotomy in the treatment of intractable pain, Freeman and Watts having published some work on this aspect.

The book is very well worth reading and has a good bibliography.

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