

of the compression, however, the facts are clearly given, and, with the aid of an admirable index, are rendered easily accessible to anyone looking up a particular question.

Considerable skill has been shown in deciding what should and what should not be omitted, the scope of the work forbidding the introduction of controversial subjects; but perhaps more than two lines might have been devoted to the descending fibres in the posterior columns, and some mention made of the less well-known tracts in the anterior and lateral columns of the spinal cord.

The illustrations are numerous, original and excellent, while the reader is pleasantly surprised to find that in lieu of references to p, p¹, and p², the names of the various parts are printed distinctly on the drawings and diagrams.

The chapter on myology is fully up to the high standard of the rest of the work, and the attempt to describe the actions of muscular groups rather than those of individual muscles is one to be thoroughly commended in a work of this kind.

In conclusion, it should be stated that the book is a single volume, containing about 1,300 pages, and that the paper and type are all that can be desired.

E. FARQUHAR BUZZARD.

Les tics et leur traitement. By HENRY MEIGE and E. FEINDEL. (Masson et Cie., Paris, 1902.)

It is a matter of some surprise to meet with a book of more than 600 pages devoted to the subject of "tics," but it is more than surprising to learn that its authors have, severally or conjointly, already contributed twenty-three other publications to medical literature on the same subject. This is a degree of specialism hardly known in this country, and calculated to raise the question as to whether the particular specialty is of much greater general interest in France than in England. Should the answer be in the positive, it affords strong evidence in favour of the view that this form of malady is of far more frequent occurrence across the Channel.

Those who have the leisure to give to its perusal will find much to interest them in this volume, for not only is the subject

treated exhaustively from every possible standpoint, but it is dealt with in a most attractive manner and in a language which lends itself peculiarly to graphic descriptions of the extraordinary movements characteristic of the disease. One must, for instance, agree with Meige and Feindel that the following summary of the condition by Trousseau is "irreproachable":—"Le tic non douloureux consiste en des contractions instantanées, rapides, généralement limitées à un petit nombre de muscles, habituellement aux muscles de la face, mais pouvant aussi en affecter d'autres, ceux du cou, du tronc et des membres Chez l'un, c'est un clignotement des paupières, un tiraillement convulsif de la joue, de l'aile du nez, de la commissure des lèvres, qui donne au visage un air grimaçant; chez un autre, c'est un hochement de tête, une contorsion brusque et passagère du cou se répétant à chaque instant; chez un troisième, c'est un soulèvement d'épaule, une agitation convulsive des muscles abdominaux ou du diaphragme; c'est, en un mot, une variété infinie de mouvements bizarres qui échappent à toute description Ces tics sont en quelques cas accompagnés d'un cri, d'un éclat de voix, plus ou moins bruyant, très caractéristique Ce cri, ce jappement, cet éclat de voix, véritables chorées laryngées ou diaphragmatiques, peuvent constituer tout le tic C'est encore une tendance singulière à répéter toujours le même mot, la même exclamation; et même l'individu profère à haute voix des mots qu'il voudrait bien retenir"

No better way of introducing the subject and of giving the reader a good general idea of the disease under notice could possibly have been chosen than that adopted by the authors. They have devoted the first forty pages to "Les Confidences d'un Tiqueur," the latter being a gentleman who not only proves to be a perfect clinical museum of tic phenomena, but displays exceptional powers of introspective analysis, with the result that both the motor and the mental factors of the malady are exposed in a novel and instructive manner. Later on both these factors are discussed in further detail, and much emphasis is laid on the fact that in a true tiqueur there is always some mental as well as some motor disturbance; in other words the tic is the outward and visible manifestation of some psychical instability.

No light is thrown on the pathological anatomy of the malady, and the authors express their opinion that autopsies will always prove negative. "Nous ne croyons pas en effet que l'affection soit sous la dépendance d'une lésion acquise; nous supposons plus volontiers qu'il s'agit d'anomalies congénitales, d'arrêts ou de

vices développement des voies d'association corticales ou des anastomoses infracorticales, minuscules malformations tératologiques que nos connaissances anatomiques sont malheureusement encore impuissantes à reconnaître."

All the various forms of movement exhibited by the victims of this morbid tendency are discussed and illustrated by many clinical examples; the diagnosis and prognosis are dealt with in detail, and the last part of the book is devoted to the important subject of their treatment. The inconstancy of results obtained by the use of drugs, of baths, of electricity and of operative measures are well-known, and it would seem that the chief object of the writers is to advocate the method of re-education which, in their hands, has certainly been wonderfully successful. Relying on the fact that in all true tiqueurs there is, in the first instance, some deficiency in mental or moral power, they endeavour to supply this want by encouraging gradual systematic exercises which aim at developing self-discipline in the same way as the exercise of a muscle will develop the force of its contraction. The numerous methods and ingenious devices they have employed are given in full, and cannot fail to prove extremely useful to all who wish to follow in their footsteps.

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