BOOK REVIEWS


Metabolic disorders are at present very popular subjects for articles and neurological metabolic abnormalities occupy a very special place in present day literature. One such disease, which is particularly suitable for a monograph, is hepato-lenticular degeneration in which an abnormality of copper metabolism is a feature. Recently, numerous articles have been published on this disorder and it has occupied a well merited prominent place in international neurological meetings. It is therefore a pleasure to be able to review a monograph by two well-known French writers, that will rank in the French language with that written by Hall on the same subject in 1921.

The two authors have seen and recorded their findings in nine cases and have reviewed much of the literature of the subject. After a short historical survey and discussion on general aetiological factors a full and wide discussion of the clinical features is given. A rather undue stress is perhaps laid on the results of the liver disorder in comparison with the neurological features. The anatomical aspects are well recorded, and this is followed by some account of the biochemical disorders. The various modes of therapy available are mentioned with the results obtained in the patients seen. Finally there is a section concerning some personal observations on nine cases of which four had not previously been recorded.

More than 700 references are mentioned, a full bibliography even though not all are references to hepato-lenticular degeneration.

Few mistakes are present, apart from the unfortunate spelling of two names in the preface. An index would have been an advantage together with a slightly more critical approach to the reports of other writers whose clinical acumen is always taken for granted, but these, however, are minor faults.

This volume should be read by all neurologists and those interested in copper metabolism.


In this translation into French of Melanie Klein’s classic book The Psycho-analysis of Children, the text, as in the fourth English edition, is unchanged from the original published in 1932. Dr. Boulanger makes it clear that great trouble has been taken to give an accurate presentation, and Mrs. Klein has herself checked the entire translation.

Although Mrs. Klein has added to and extended her observations and theories in a number of later papers and books, the fact that no revision has been necessary in this basic work is a testimony to the accuracy, penetration and fundamental nature of Mrs. Klein’s observations and theoretical arguments. This, in turn, is in a large measure due to the fact that everything she says in her books is founded on extensive clinical analytic work with children whose ages ranged from 2½ years to 14 years.

Mrs. Klein describes how she evolved her play technique on the basis of her conviction that play is the child’s natural means of expression, just as speech is that of the adult. She provided a play room with table, chairs, couch or sofa, and a basin with running water, plus small toys of varied and primitive kind.

Mrs. Klein points out that ‘even a child that is usually inhibited in its play will at least glance at the toys, or touch them, and will so give me a glimpse into its complexive life by the way it begins to play with them or lays them aside, or by its general attitude towards them’.

She makes it clear that her method of analysis of children differs from the psycho-analytic treatment of adults in technique but not in principle. As opposed to certain other analysis, and to most child guidance therapists, Mrs. Klein has studiously avoided all educational measures and relies entirely on interpretation of the material the child presents in his play, his drawings, and his general attitude and behaviour towards the analyst. She thus gained access to the child’s unconscious mind, and she has always made his anxieties the centre of her attention.

The first part of the book deals with the varied technique of child analysis at different ages, and contains also chapters on ‘Neuroses in children’ and ‘The sexual activities of children’ which paediatricians should find particularly useful. She shows, for example, how neurosis in childhood is not always recognized as such, and may be regarded as excessive naughtiness, or be passed over completely in an unusually ‘good’ child, and she shows how these characteristics are related to adult difficulties which are more generally recognized as symptoms. She gives criteria for the recognition of severe difficulties, and shows how the common factor of anxiety underlies all the varying manifestations of disorder.

In the second part of her book Mrs. Klein deals in great detail with the effects of early anxiety situations on all aspects of the development of the child, and illustrates her material with extensive clinical examples.


In this book the authors discuss sleep disorders in children under 3 years of age. The subject matter is