Krause, Fedor. **Spezielle Chirurgie der Gehirnkrankheiten.**

This, the first volume of a monumental monograph on the Epilepsies, is a big book, 520 large octavo pages with 112 illustrations, many in color. It is the most complete thing of its kind and will succeed Binswanger's classic. The viewpoint is general; the surgical features are reserved for volume 2.

The history is dealt with in twenty-one pages and begins in the long forgotten past. Statistical material follows. So far as German figures are concerned, the general incidence runs higher than the figures given by Binswanger. The increase due to the war has introduced statistical difficulties which have not yet been resolved, and guesses that from two to five in every hundred suffer from epileptic convulsive states are offered. The figures on war traumatic epilepsy receive special consideration.

Symptomatology occupies nearly a hundred pages and deals with (a) Transitory Phases and (b) the Course. The "Typical" set of Phenomena and then the variants are sketched. All of accessory manifestations are detailed. Jacksonian Types occupy a special chapter, also their relation to the general types and Reflex and Rudimentary Types. Borderline situations, such as Affect Epilepsy, Myoclonus Epilepsy, Narcolepsy, Pyknolepsy, and Migraine, briefly are discussed; as are also Transitory Psychical States, Aura, and Suppression of the Attacks. The Course of the Disorder, Status, Free Intervals, Mental Deterioration, and Prognosis complete this third section.

In the next section Etiology is dealt with in over 100 pages, starting with a general review of the interrelationships, in which five main factors are laid down. Disposition, reaction capacity, brain changes, releasing situations, and anatomical foundations. To us not very satisfactory even though the position that there is no such thing as epilepsy per se as a single disease in the old nosological sense is maintained. The concept of the body, as capturing, transforming, and releasing energy, is not glimpsed, even though it is an elementary fact of modern neuropsychiatric science. The outstanding works of Winkler, Herrick, Kappers, Meyer, Jelliffe and White, adopt such a viewpoint. These authors do not glimpse this larger frame of the organismic response to external stimuli as a whole and its particular type of behavior response which, among other phenomena, gives rise to the disorderly "clotted mass of movements," as Jackson so well characterized them, at least certain of the motor manifestations. Strange also we find no mention made of the parathyroid in the few pages devoted to endocrine possibilities. The general and important calcium situation is thus glossed over.

The physiological considerations are well considered and the chapters on the anatomical findings and the cortical motor area situation elaborated at great length but in the older settings.
It is a masterly work. One would like to see an electrical engineer work on the problems involved, one who had evolved the automatic switchboards of our telephone systems or radio transforming apparatuses, for instance. We doubt seriously whether enough is known of the bodily mechanisms to make the necessary translations as yet, but this will come, and the naive "Jack in the Box" conceptions of cerebral activities now regnant will have seen their day. Until this dream comes nearer to actual human engineering realities we must be content with such a work. We can but hope that the continuance of the work on the high plane of its beginning, at its level, will be carried out.


Within comparatively recent years there has grown up a definitely commendable tendency to recognize more and more intrinsically the essential integrating nature of the nervous system. In textbooks of general medicine and in anatomy the baneful habit still persists to artificially analyze out the nervous system as a separate morphological unit, thus introducing entirely false notions counter to the well recognized truth that through the nervous system the human body achieves its organic unity.

Fortunately, in certain fields this interrelated dependence is more open to observation. In the eye and ear domain specially there has grown up a rich general and special literature which puts into the foreground these mutually acting factors. Thus the present authentic and highly valuable textbook, certainly the first in the field at a level that commands the greatest respect and that sets a stamp of high achievement not reached in any similar enterprise with which we are acquainted.

In the masterly monographs of Willbrand and Saenger on the Eye, and of Marburg and Alexander on the Ear, in both of which many volumed tomes neuro-oto-opthalmological considerations receive full consideration, the profession possesses a rich mine of knowledge.

The authors of this work have gathered the essentials of these large monographic volumes in an entirely new and original orientation in which the special connections of these closely related neural systems are presented in detail sufficient for understanding and freed from the massive presentations of monographic proportions.

The focus of the work is distinctly on neurological structures and functions, hence the beginning chapter on medullary, midbrain, inter-brain and brain connections and symptoms. Here the central switchboard anatomy and physiology are exceedingly well presented. Many new and instructive diagrams are introduced. Then, after a chapter on the cerebrospinal fluid, the eye system is completely analyzed as to its sight and movement components. A similar series of chapters deal with the acoustic and vertibular complex. In addition the relation of the cranial cavities, the nose, sinuses, throat, and larynx, to central neural disturbances are elucidated.