

This volume of 236 pages contains what the most exacting clinician would require in the way of practical methods of chemically analyzing the urine, the blood, serous exudations, gastric juice, bile, saliva calculi, milk and butter. Dr. Sonnié-Moret has treated the subject from the standpoint of the clinician, and brings his methods and manipulations to the level of a clinical laboratory, which need only be a modest one, this fact alone making the book valuable, as most of the authors preceding him seem to have forgotten that practicing medical men do not always have an elaborately furnished laboratory and a great deal of time in which to make the most minute chemical tests which are not always the most useful for the practitioner.

De la Nature de L'Epilepsie.—Par le Dr. Fr. Hallager. (On the Nature of Epilepsy, by Dr. Fr. Hallager, Viborg, Denmark.) 1 vol., 180 pages. Price 5 fcs. Société d'Éditions Scientifiques, 4, rue Antoine Dubois, Paris.

In his treatise upon the subject, Dr. Hallager classifies the different forms in two classes, *i.e.*, epilepsy due to lesions of the cortex and reflex epilepsy; he also devotes a goodly portion of his work to experimental epilepsy, and quite a few pages to the symptoms of epilepsy and post-epileptic phenomena. The bibliographical references show that he has treated the subject in a most thorough manner, and his tabulation of reported cases is most comprehensible; in reality, it is a most valuable volume.

PUBLISHERS DEPARTMENT.

ARTIFICIAL SOMNAMBULISM.

Two fundamental elements constitute personality—memory and character. In the latter respect, as to character, induced somnambulism is not perhaps always clearly distinguishable from the waking state. It frequently happens that the somnambulist does not relinquish the character that he had before he was put to sleep. The reasons are manifold. This does not, however, hold for the second element of personality—memory. It has long been said that memory supplies the chief sign by which the new state may be distinguished from the normal state. The somnambulist shows, in fact, a curious modification in the range of his memory; the same regular phenomena of amnesia may be produced in him as occur in the spontaneous variations of personality.

Two propositions sum up the principal modifications of memory which accompany induced hypnotic somnambulism: first, the subject recalls during his waking state none of the events which happened during somnambulism; and second, on the other hand, when put in the somnambulistic state, he may remember not only the previous somnambulistic states, but also events belonging to his waking state. It follows that memory attains its maximum extent in somnambulism, since it then embraces two psychological existences at once, as the normal memory never does. It may even be remarked that the somnambulist, when he endeavors to recollect certain particulars, has better memory than the same person awake. Gurney has shown, moreover, from studies of hysterical patients, that somnambulistic states may persist in the waking life; that the somnambulistic ego, the second condition, is not always completely effaced when the waking state returns, but survives, co-exists with normal thought, and gives rise to complex phenomena of division of consciousness.—*From Plural States of Being*, by ALFRED BINET, in *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* for February.