

of the reflexes have not the value that has been ascribed to them, as he has met with the abnormal sign in functional as well as in organic conditions of the nervous system. You accordingly find it difficult to decide which of the conflicting statements to believe, for the opportunities of putting these matters to the test do not occur sufficiently often in your practice to permit of your coming to any satisfactory conclusion from your own observations.

It is, therefore, natural that you should look to those whose work brings them into daily contact with these problems, and who have endless opportunities of testing the conflicting views expressed by different authors, to assist you to decide what is true, and what is not; on what evidence you may place confidence, and what you should mistrust and discard.

It thus seems probable that no better use can be made of an opportunity like the present than to attempt to show that, in spite of much that you may see written to the contrary, the reflexes are of the utmost value in the diagnosis of affections of the nervous system.

Time will not permit me to quote cases in support of what I have to say, but I can assure you that all the facts to which I propose to call your attention are based on practical experience of these matters, and that actual cases which substantiate the statements occur to me as I recount the facts which I deem worthy of your acceptance as likely to prove helpful to you in the problems that confront you from time to time in the routine of your practice.

An attempt will be made to show that the reflexes are of value:

1. In the diagnosis of organic from functional affections of the nervous system.
2. In the diagnosis of one organic disease from another.
3. In localizing the seat of the morbid process.
4. In determining the extent and severity of the mischief.
5. That there are limitations to the value of the reflexes.
6. What part they play in the diagnosis of maladies outside the realms of neurology.

It will, of course, be impossible to deal with all of the reflexes in the time at our disposal, and it will be equally impossible to discuss more than some of the more important aspects of the subjects I have outlined, without pretending that any exhaustive consideration of them in their many bearings is at all possible.

1. DIAGNOSIS OF ORGANIC FROM FUNCTIONAL AFFECTIONS.

One is inclined to question either the observation or the judgment of the author who, having elicited the extensor type of