

## BOOK REVIEWS

**NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASES.** By Archibald Church, M.D., professor of nervous and mental diseases, Northwestern Medical School, Chicago; and Frederick Peterson, M.D., formerly professor of psychiatry, Columbia University. Ninth edition. 949 pages with 350 illustrations. Price, \$7.50. Publishers: W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia & London, 1919.

This book is the ninth edition of what has proved to be a standard text-book for students and practitioners so that a detailed review of it is superfluous. This edition differs little from the preceding one except that, as the authors say, the subjects of general paresis and traumatic insanity have been re-written. In the section on nervous diseases there perhaps might have been more careful revision as one notices that the definition between Tic and Spasm is not clearly differentiated, and that the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia is perhaps not quite modern.

The chapter, however, on arterial brain diseases, tumours of the brain, spinal cord lesions, and epilepsy are splendid. The section on mental diseases is, on the whole, excellent. However, enough attention has not been given to manic depressive insanity, dementia praecox and general paresis. On the other hand too much attention has been given to the physical standpoint of mental diseases.

From a general viewpoint this book still remains an excellent one for students and practitioners.

**THE DON QUIXOTE OF PSYCHIATRY.** By Victor Robinson, Ph.C., M.D., New York Historical Medical Press, 206 Broadway. 1919.

Shobal Vail Clevenger, Jr., the subject of this biographical sketch, was born in Italy, by the Arno, in March, 1843, of humble, though talented, parents. His father had been a stone cutter in Cincinnati until the day that he chiselled a man's head in the rock and all the city recognized the Editor of the Cincinnati *Evening Post*. Following this the father's talent as a sculptor became recognized and many notable American statesmen of the day were among his sitters. However, while in Italy studying his art, he acquired tuberculosis and died on his way home at the early age of thirty. Young Clevenger at this time was only six months old. The boy's schooling did not amount to very much; driven out of New Orleans by the epidemic of yellow fever, from which his brother died, he settled in St. Louis. First he worked as a clerk in his uncle's boot store. Then, through great influence, he