BOOK REVIEWS

AGNOSIA, APRAXIA, APHASIA. THEIR VALUE IN CEREBRAL LOCALIZATION
J. M. Nielsen

In this second edition of his book, Dr. J. M. Nielsen, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine (Neurology) University of Southern California, presents the evidence on which he has based various published statements on the functions of speech and voluntary action, and the disturbance of these functions in disease. Thirty pages are devoted to a discussion of terminology, and the author puts forward various new terms, including “irreminiscence, visual, verbal, temporal,”—which is described as meaning “loss of ability to visualize words due to a lesion of the temporal lobe.” We are reminded of a judge who, in Court recently, asked a medical witness to speak English.

The early pages of this book give a useful outline of the subject; the latter half will be of more use to the specialist.

THE PRINCIPLES OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
Loyal Davis
(London. Henry Kimpton, 1946. Pp. 540; Illustrated. 37s. 6d.)

Mr. Loyal Davis’ well-known text book on neurological surgery has now reached its third edition. Like its predecessors, this thoroughly revised edition gives ample evidence of the author’s wide experience, reliable judgement, and literary abilities. Students should continue to find this book stimulating and readable.

SHOCK TREATMENTS AND OTHER SOMATIC PROCEDURES IN PSYCHIATRY
Lothar B. Kalinowsky and Paul H. Hoch

Writing on what has become an extremely controversial subject, these authors fail to make plain their own point of view, although they have been critical in evaluating their own results in the two main therapeutic methods of insulin coma and artificially induced convulsions. The book contains a number of useful facts, but the reader is left to sift what is valuable from much that is not.

MODERN ATTITUDES IN PSYCHIATRY

The New York Academy of Medicine sponsors certain lectures for laymen. The subject for 1943 was psychiatry in medicine, and this volume contains the lectures by six distinguished American psychiatrists. The modern attitude is here set out with admirable clarity for the intelligent layman. The book shows that it is possible to present difficult medical problems in a non-technical and easily understandable form.

THE PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL TREATMENT OF CHILDREN
Anna Freud
(London. Imago Publishing Co. Ltd., 1946. Pp. 98. 10s. 6d.)

Anna Freud considers that the play technique adopted by Mrs. Melanie Klein, which is popular in this country, is too objective and leaves too much to the interpretations of the analyst. Her own technique is to establish an alliance with the child at the beginning of the treatment, and she assures the young patient that the “devil” which he recognizes inside him can be exorcized with the help of the analyst.

These lectures are presented in highly technical language, but this need not put off those who do not wholeheartedly belong to the psycho-analytical school; they provide much material which is instructive and interesting.

THE BIOLOGY OF SCHIZOPHRENIA
R. G. Hoskins

Dr. R. G. Hoskins, who is the Director of Research at the Worcester State Hospital, summarizes work on disturbances of bodily function in schizophrenia and forecasts the trend of future research. On the whole the findings are negative, and Dr. Hoskins’ style tends to be involved.

PERIPHERAL NERVE INJURIES. PRINCIPLES OF DIAGNOSIS
Webb Haymaker and Barnes Woodhall
(London. W. B. Saunders Company. Pp. 227. 225 Illustrations. 22s. 6d.)

This book has been sponsored by the United States Army, and the material for it was collected in Army hospitals. The authors’ main purpose has been to help Service medical officers in diagnosing peripheral nerve injuries, but the work is of greater scope than any such guide produced on this side of the Atlantic. Some of the techniques described differ slightly from those to which British workers are accustomed, but they are all useful. The clinical descriptions of nerve injuries are clear, and the illustrations excellent. This is a first-class reference book for clinicians; though not written for the expert, it should be useful in teaching.

The following have also recently been published.


A historical and anthropological summary is followed by an account of group transferences and formations, group and individual psychotherapy, and the use of the psychodrama.


An account of the hypothalamic-hypophyseal mechanism, and its nervous and hormonal connexions.
BOOK REVIEWS


An account of psychiatry with clinical descriptions and chapters on personal and occupational therapy.


The author claims to present the psycho-analytic doctrines in a systematic and comprehensive manner. Part I includes an account of medical development, Part II that of the psycho-analytic theory of neurosis.


After a historical introduction there is an illustrated discussion on brain-stem tumours characterized by absence of raised intracranial pressure and rapid development.


An illustrated account of the technique of encephalography.


Records of psychiatric treatment of children in American child-guidance clinics, with comments by the editor. Intended for students and practitioners of child psychiatry.


A monograph on war neuroses and the treatment of their acute and chronic phases.

CORRECTION

In a review of "Diseases of the Nervous System" by F. M. R. Walshe, which appeared on page 112 of the Journal of Neurology for July, 1946, it was said that this text-book had reached its sixth edition. The publishers, Messrs. E. and S. Livingstone, point out that the present edition, which came out in January 1947, is the fifth.