FOURTH INTERNATIONAL NEUROLOGICAL CONGRESS
PARIS, SEPTEMBER 5 to 10, 1949

The Fourth International Neurological Congress will be held in Paris from Monday, Sept. 5 till Saturday, Sept. 10, 1949.

Scientific business will comprise discussions upon four main topics: (1) the thalamus and its pathology; (2) electroencephalography and electromyography; (3) virus diseases of the nervous system; (4) the surgery of pain. The official openers of these four topics have already been nominated by the various National Vice-Presidents. Members of the Congress can participate in the discussion, their remarks being strictly limited to five minutes each.

Short papers on any neurological topic will also be given, and members are invited to submit titles and an abstract of their communication to the Secretary by Feb. 1, 1949. The length of the communication must not exceed ten minutes. No member may give more than two communications.

It has been decided by the General Committee of the Congress that application for membership and all financial contributions must be made through a National Committee for each country, which will transmit all applications for membership and all subscriptions to the General Committee in Paris. The British National Committee has been constituted by the Section of Neurology of the Royal Society of Medicine, and is as follows: President, Dr. Anthony Feiling; Secretary, Dr. Macdonald Critchley; Treasurer, Dr. M. J. McArdle, Other Members, Drs. Douglas McAlpine, W. Ritchie Russell, and G. Smythe, and Sir Charles Symonds.

There are two classes of members: (1) full members, i.e., all medical men or women interested in neurology, and (2) associate members, i.e., non-medical men or women interested in the Congress.

Every member of the Section of Neurology of the Royal Society of Medicine is earnestly invited to contribute the sum of 10s. towards the general expenses of the Congress (whether attending or not). The subscription for full members is £1 10s. 0d. and for associate members £1 5s. 0d. All cheques should be made payable to and sent to Dr. M. J. McArdle, 58a, Wimpole Street, London, W.1, before April 1, 1949.

Details as to hotel accommodation will be published later. The local committee of the Congress have appointed the American Express Company to be the official travel agents.

BOOK REVIEWS


Dr. Walshe's critical writings and orations of recent years are well known to neurologists. In this volume six of his papers are republished in a well-produced little volume. Some may from time to time have regretted the almost vitriolic words of comment used by Dr. Walshe to disagree with the hypotheses of some well-known physiologist, but none can fail to acknowledge the great educational value to the young neurologist of reading, or preferably hearing, Dr. Walshe's expositions. To quote from the foreword, "A prime purpose of this reprint therefore is to stimulate critical thinking amongst postgraduate students of neurology who may wish to penetrate more deeply into one or other aspects of this fascinating branch of medicine, and, when they sit down before the literature, to make of them gourmets rather than gourmands." The training of the critical faculty was never more required than it is today, for our minds tend to be overwhelmed by the stream of new knowledge. Dr. Walshe exemplifies the critical spirit, and though the young neurologist can rarely hope to emulate his remarkable choice of words, he should endeavour to train himself to understand some part of neurology so well that he can criticise research studies on at least some aspects of his speciality with the confidence and clarity of thought and expression which he will find in these papers.


It is unfortunate that neuro-radiology is often relegated to the position of being a branch of bone radiology. Dandy introduced pneumo-encephalography thirty years ago, and it is over twenty years since Moniz began carotid arteriography. When properly combined these methods of investigation, together with the straight radiography of the skull, probably provide information more accurate and yet more diverse than can be obtained from any other branch of diagnostic radiology. This is the main fascination of the subject. Radiographing the "dry bones" of the head seldom provides the whole radiological answer, and should be only a prelude.

In its limited sphere, however, this little "Handbook of Röntgen Diagnosis" covers the ground well. It is
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the sixth of a series of similar handbooks. The arrangement consists of text on one side of the page and radiographic reproductions on the other. The latter are of good quality. There are three sections (1) skull, (2) sinuses, and (3) mastoids. The first part occupies half the book and is of most interest to neurologists. The appearances of the normal skull are well described and, equally important, the commoner normal variations and physiological intracranial calcifications are listed. Concise descriptions of pathological conditions follow, nearly all of which are well illustrated. There is one surprising statement on page 140: "Approximately 42 per cent. of brain tumours are metastatic." One feels that this must be a misprint.


No physician or surgeon who treats patients complaining of headache or other pains in the head, face, or neck should neglect to study this important monograph.

Dr. Wolff's clinical researches are well known to neurologists but their importance can hardly have been fully appreciated prior to the appearance of this remarkable record of work carried out during the past fifteen years.

Being a practising neurologist and psychiatrist, the author brings to his research work a refreshing "vision" which has enabled him to penetrate the true nature of pain and other forms of sensation. He turns readily to the clinical lesion to help him in his work. For example he studies lumbar puncture headache in patients with one trigeminal nerve sectioned, and the pain of muscle spasm in a patient with tetanus. The subjective effect of irritating almost every cranial structure is studied, including the meninges, blood vessels, eye muscles, nasal mucosa and sinuses, scalp and neck muscles, and teeth. For example a temporal headache may be produced by electrical stimulation of a tooth, and partly relieved by the injection of procaine into the scalp in the temporal region.

Among the phenomena described are the temporary abolition of migrainous scotoma by a vasodilator, the influence of a vasodilator on some features of tic douloureux, and the modification of many atypical facial pains by pressure on the external carotid artery. The chapter on the personality features in persons with migraine, and the treatment of these cases is of great practical value to the physician and psychiatrist.

Some of Dr. Wolff's conclusions are based on evidence which other research workers may consider to be inadequate, but to the reviewer's mind his somewhat challenging method of expressing his own convictions is both justifiable and stimulating: it is easy for the intelligent reader to see where the evidence is somewhat tenuous, and in time most of Dr. Wolff's conclusions will probably be proved correct.


We welcome this new journal which is published for the experimental psychology group, with Mr. R. C. Oldfield as editor. It should provide much needed facilities for the publication of research work being conducted by experimental psychologists. The contents of the first number are as follows:

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This book is described by the author as a précis written largely for mental and general trained nurses and for junior students who require some elementary knowledge of psychology. It would, therefore, be unfair to make excessive demands. The comprehensive title is, however, apt to mislead, since only those schools commonly called "dynamic" receive any mention, and a large part of the book is taken up with a popular and inevitably over-simplified presentation of the Freudian point of view. Brief reference is made to other analytic schools and to the views of McDougall. Much emphasis is placed on the psychogenetic aspects of mental disorder, and there is a chapter on so-called psychosomatic medicine. No doubt this book presents the kind of psychology the general public expects, but to the medical reader it is of little interest.


In present-day psychological writings there is an unfortunate tendency for length to vary inversely with knowledge. The present book is no exception to this rule. Although the scientific study of personality is in its infancy, Professor Stagner has devoted what may seem to some of us a disproportionately long book to its growing pains. Nevertheless, he has performed a most useful service in drawing together a mass of material bearing on personality drawn from experimental, clinical, and anthropological sources. This material is assembled with judgment and skill, and the result may be confidently recommended to anyone who wishes to gain a broad indication of the contemporary outlook in this most difficult field of psychology.

To the neurologist, the most interesting parts of Professor Stagner's book will probably be those concerned with the organization of temperament and character. On the basis of a careful appraisal of the available data, the author evaluates in a sensible way the respective importance of constitutional, physiological, and environmental factors in the formation and growth of personality. It is a pity, however, that he devotes practically no space to personality changes associated with injury or disease of the nervous system. Even the fashionable topic of prefrontal leucotomy is dismissed in eighteen lines. Nevertheless, much of what Professor Stagner has to say regarding problems of personality in general should be of value to anyone who aspires to bring order into the confusing realm of contemporary neuropsychiatry.
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This book is not, as its title might imply a straightforward textbook of the autonomic nervous system. Although it opens with sections on anatomy and physiology, its main theme is the development and application to clinical medicine of the experimental work of Reilly and his colleagues in France on "irritation" of the autonomic system. These workers found that the response to intense and prolonged stimulation of autonomic nerve centres differs from the response either to a less intense and more physiological stimulus or to section of the same pathways. They named this third type of response "l'irritation nerveuse." The essence of the response was an immediate and very marked vasodilatation, which in experimental animals was often irreversible and if widespread led to death. Thus "irritation" of the diencephalon produced a generalized effect, characterized by cerebral edema, increased respiration, hypertension, pulmonary edema, and albuminuria or hematuria with gastro-intestinal hemorrhages. Local responses could also be elicited, as, for instance, that from splanchic nerve "irritation," which caused edema of the gut with swelling and hemorrhage from Peyers patches, and albumin or sometimes blood in the urine. In these autonomic responses the authors of this book see possible mechanisms for the signs and symptoms of many bodily diseases. The major part of the book consists of collating disease processes, both local and general, with these responses; and in this connexion allergy and anaphylaxis, nephritis, gastric ulceration, asthma, coronary disease, and the acute manifestations common to severe zymotic diseases are all discussed.

The conception of pathways and centres in the central nervous system, which may mediate some of the manifestations of all disease, has already been explored to some extent by Speransky; and the book under review, though limited to the autonomic system, is reminiscent of his approach. The idea has a logic of its own, since the nervous system shares with the blood the attribute of supplying every tissue in the body.

This book should certainly be read by those interested in the mechanics of disease processes. The authors have gathered together a large number of interesting facts, many of them, the result of M. Reilly's researches, which are little known over here and which, though his experimental procedures will certainly be criticized by neurophysiologists, may be of value to neurologists and neurosurgeons. Those educated in the traditions of English medicine will be chary of accepting the wider implications that the authors draw, even though they may, in fact, be describing a fundamental mechanism in the pathogenesis of disease.

The style of the book is turgid and the method of presentation is characterized by tiring repetition of information. The sections on anatomy and physiology are by no means exhaustive. Thus, scant attention is paid to autonomic pathways or functions above diaphragmatic level. This may have been wise restraint a year or two ago, but it will certainly require revisions in the near future.


This is a clear resumen of the anatomy of the autonomic nervous system, including work of modern authors. It will be of use to students and practitioners alike. It is well illustrated with drawings and clear diagrams. Although authors and a few dates are mentioned, unfortunately the lack of bibliography is a limitation.


This comprehensive book contains four sections. The first is concerned with physiology and includes a study of the movements observed in the human infant soon after birth, and of postural reflexes, the effect of gross cerebral lesions, and the distortions of posture caused by focal epilepsy or electrical stimulation of the brain. The second section analyses the muscular disorders resulting from disease of the muscles, nerves, spinal cord, and brain. The muscular dystonias are considered in special detail. Disorders of the ocular movements in disease are considered in part 3. This publication brings together much of what is known regarding motor functions and their disorders as seen in the clinic. It should be a useful work of reference for the neurologist and neurophysiologist, but unfortunately the quoted references can only rarely be identified, and there is no index to the volume.


This book gives an account of work published by the author in the French press and of the ideas inspiring the school of the late Clovis Vincent. The following points are of interest: in the section dealing with cerebral pathology, the description of the "corneopterygoid reflex" (contralateral deviation of the mandible on coarse stimulation of the cornea) observed in severe lesions of the upper brain stem, such as occur with a temporal pressure cone; the use of lipiodol (1/3 c.c.m.) in ventriculography for precise localization of obstructions of the aqueduct of Sylvius; observations on the most convenient sites for burr holes in intracranial hemorrhage; and the distinction between "passive" and "active" cerebral edema. In the third section, on treatment, the author's suggestions of dealing surgically with the temporal pressure cone by his own sub-temporal approach, the anatomy of the venous drainage in the middle fossa, mesencephalic tractotomy, and intervention on the interpeduncular cistern (with reference to streptomycin therapy) deserve the neurosurgical reader's attention.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received)


