some posterior removals. Changes in autonomic response sometimes occurred, and an interesting point was the appearance of a reticulocytosis in some patients. However, as this was not correlated with haemoglobin level it may have been merely a haemorrhagic effect.

Nothing very new emerges from the work. Nevertheless it is a useful addition to the subject, and will be of value in guiding future research. In a field still largely uncharted, such a detailed study even of a few cases is probably necessary, but it may be doubted whether the bulky psychiatric case histories are really of much value, and negative findings seem at times unnecessarily elaborated. The array of specialist talent collaborating in the work is impressive, though the English reader may get a suggestion of advertisement for the principle of the "combined research project". The book will undoubtedly be of interest to neurologists and psychiatrists, especially as it has an adequate reference section. It is a pity the price in this country is so high.


A book which has reached its third edition within seven years needs little introduction. The new edition, which includes the results of experience gained in the war years on the penetrating wounds, remains an excellent monograph on head injuries and a book indispensable to those engaged in accident work. The references given to each subject are particularly well chosen and show how much the value of a book is enhanced when attention is paid to this important but often neglected detail.

"Microscopical" on page 45 is presumably a misprint for "macroscopical", and there is a grammatical error on page 144.

The operative section is reliable. Further details of the efficacy of the operation advocated for external hydrocephalus would be welcome. It is surprising to note that the author still advocates the use of amnion for dural repair.

In looking forward to a further edition we hope that it will be possible for the author to give us a clearer indication of the incidence of epilepsy following head injury, a matter on which advice is so often sought. The section on birth injuries might well be expanded to describe more fully the clinical syndrome and treatment of subdural hematoma in infancy.


The first two-thirds of this interesting but unconvincing book gives very brief descriptions of the electrical phenomena found to influence, or supposed to influence living tissues. In the next 156 pages, water divining and kindred phenomena, including radiesthesia (pendum phenomena), are discussed. Then follows a bibliography of 1,496 references with a large section on the use of the divining rod. This bibliography forms a useful source of references to electro-biological phenomena and can be recommended to anyone beginning the study of the less known phenomena in bio-electricity. The accounts of the various subjects discussed are too short and too free from critical comment to give much indication of the validity of the various phenomena described.

The author is a professor of geology in Cairo. He attaches much weight to scientific tests made in physical and physiological laboratories in Holland during 1946 and 1947. These are said to have indicated that "divining phenomena are not due to charlatanry and suggestion, but really exist." He does however remark on page 289, in regard to the general literature of dowsing, that the facts are "partly true and partly fantastically imaginative," and "it is doubtful whether so much investigation and discussion have been bestowed on any other subject with such lack of positive evidence for the reality of the observed facts."

BOOK REVIEWS


BOOKS RECEIVED

J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1950 13: 158
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.13.2.158

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