BOOK REVIEWS


Cerebral angiography was developed in 1926 in the Portuguese school and has undergone rapid advances in recent years. It is appropriate that the first text appearing in this country should come from the pen of Professor Lima who with Egaz Moniz did so much of the pioneer work. The history of its development makes interesting reading. The first attempts at angiography in man were made by percutaneous puncture of the carotid artery, but this was discarded in favour of the surgical exposure of the vessel. The author still prefers this latter method and also emphasizes the advantages of using thorotrast but, as he himself points out in a footnote, this section on the technique was written in 1946. Since then the percutaneous method has been increasingly adopted and other substances such as diodone substituted for thorotrast. The advantages of antero-posterior angiograms as well as lateral views are now also well recognized, but these changes are to be expected in a subject which is being so actively explored and does not detract from the value of this important monograph.

The technique of injection is carefully described and this is followed by a description of the normal angiogram and a consideration of tumours in various sites. There is also a chapter on intracranial vascular lesions.

The illustrations, mainly of lateral angiograms, are excellent and their interpretation is assisted by several line drawings.

The book is a credit to both author and publisher, and in congratulating them on this work, we look forward to the next edition which will be required before long.


This short book represents the experience of the late Professor Puech and his collaborators in the neurosurgical service at the hospital of Sainte-Anne in Paris. It covers a wider field than the word psychosurgery commonly connotes in the American and English literature, where it usually refers specifically to operations on the frontal lobe and its connections undertaken for the treatment of mental disease. The authors take as their subject all those intracranial surgical conditions which affect the psyche. This broader approach is already reflected amongst British neurosurgeons by the interest of Jefferson and Cairns in lesions of the hypothalamus, midbrain, and posterior fossa structures causing changes in consciousness, and in Penfield's work on the cortical localization of memory. The authors consider the subject under two headings: the surgery of recognizable cerebral lesions, tumours, trauma, cerebral oedema and upsets in cerebrospinal fluid dynamics—including intracranial hypotension—a subject to which the French school have given more attention than others; and "functional" surgery consisting of frontal leucotomy and its derivatives. This approach will appeal to anyone with experience of the neurological practice of a large mental hospital where a cerebral tumour, not only of the frontal region, or other localized cerebral lesion, appears responsible occasionally for a florid mental abnormality, though the authors' experience of upsets in cerebrospinal fluid circulation as a determinant of mental deterioration seems to be happier than most workers in this country would yet admit. In their survey of leucotomy and its developments they make adequate mention of topectomy and thalamotomy and review the anatomical background. They also emphasize the importance of careful selection of cases for operation and of psychiatric rehabilitation afterwards. Full references are given, especially to the French literature.


The use of clotted plasma as a means of joining severed stumps of peripheral nerves is severely limited by the poor holding powers of the clot. In nearly all cases suture of peripheral nerves must be done with some tension and for this plasma clots are useless. Within these severe limitations, however, Professor Tarlov has shown that the method still has uses. He has made a careful study of the tensile strength and other physical properties of the clots and shown how to prepare an autologous plasma that sets up a minimum of reaction.

The situation in which the technique has hitherto been most useful has been in placing autografts of small nerves, for example, in the hand. These are difficult to insert properly with stitches and the use of plasma is a distinct advantage. The value of the method for placing cable autografts of larger nerves remains to be fully shown.

An interesting possible use suggested by Professor Tarlov is for the repair of anterior roots of the cauda equina, using posterior roots as autografts. He reports good innervation through such grafts in monkeys, but no functional recovery of the limb up to 26 months.

The use of plasma clots for surgery of human nerves is thus clearly a limited and specialized one, the procedure, however, that of choice for any very small
nerves to be sutured without tension. Although these conditions are rare in human surgery, they are frequent in experimental operations, and the use of plasma clots makes it possible to suture effectively many nerves of small animals that could not be properly joined with stitches.


This second volume of Kirschner's system of operative surgery is devoted to the brain and spinal cord. The author, Professor N. Guleke, has clearly laboured without knowledge of neurosurgical advances outside Germany in the last 10 to 15 years, but in some respects it might be considered praiseworthy that he is able to produce this large volume in the face of such obvious difficulties. The book begins with a classic description of brain anatomy and cranio-cerebral topography on the lines of the earlier textbooks of this century. There follows a considerable section on the treatment of gunshot wounds which includes a description of sponge-tamponade in the treatment of penetrating missile wounds of the brain. In the treatment of meningitis urotropin receives a mention, but the author considers that sulphanamides are taking its place! Penicillin also is briefly referred to, but not other antibiotics. After a fairly complete description of ventriculography and encephalography, attributed to Dandy and Bingel, there is a brief reference to cerebral angiography.

Many methods of operating on tumours and other lesions in the different parts of the cranial cavity are described and profusely illustrated with rather mechanical and beautifully produced drawings which usually fail to convey any indication of the pathological changes actually encountered at operation, or of the more recent technical modifications which have so greatly improved the results of neurosurgeons. The chapters on the surgery of the cranial nerves are full and not without importance from the historical point of view.


This tribute to Bernardus Brouwer (1881–1949) was planned by his colleagues some time before his unexpected death in November, 1949. It contains contributions from over 30 well-known neurologists from many countries, and also a record of Professor Brouwer's many important contributions to neurology.


This is the fifth edition, extensively revised, of a work intended as a text for the pre-graduate student of medicine and as a brief reference book for the general practitioner and physician. It fulfils these functions well. To the English reader it has the additional advantage of exemplifying the approach to neurological problems made by the French school. This encourages one to reconsider the validity of clinical and physiological assumptions underlying neurological practice, as they often seem to differ from one country to another. The text is well balanced and contains an impressive amount of information in its 1,000 or so pages. Modern supplementary methods of diagnosis such as cerebral angiograms and electroencephalograms are discussed: but more recent findings in neuroanatomy and physiology, though briefly mentioned, are not as yet often incorporated into the interpretation of clinical findings. This book is so useful a compendium of clinical neurology that one wishes the author had given references to the literature: names are mentioned in the text but without references. It is illustrated by diagrams which are well reproduced and photographs which are not always so clear.


The general impression is that of a well-written and carefully illustrated book. The influence of Foerster on Gagel, one of his pupils and collaborators, can be clearly seen by the frequent use of Foerster's diagrams and the allusions to Foerster's work in the clinical descriptions. Although other authors are mentioned in the text, no further reference to their work regarding year or journal is made. To facilitate postgraduate studies it would be of great value to the students to have these references available. Like many other German post-war textbooks, the lack of recent knowledge of American literature is very striking, particularly in regard to recent advances in neurophysiology. Some minor criticism may be made about Figures 39a and b which are labelled as Nissl stains, but clearly they must be silver impregnations.

Apart from these shortcomings, the textbook should prove to be an excellent guide to the field of clinical neurology and neuropathology.


This book describes the part played by vascular disturbances in a large variety of headaches and facial pains, and especially in histamine headache and migraine. Observations on histamine headache, including study of the blood-meningeal barrier, lead the author to conclude that headache in this condition is due to cerebral oedema, not to arterial dilatation as such. No single physiopathological mechanism, he believes, will account for all the phenomena of migraine. In some cases there is vasoconstriction followed by vaso-dilation, in others cerebral oedema alone occurs, and it is important therapeutically to decide which mechanism is operative in a given case.

The author, a practising surgeon, disclaims any attempt to provide a comprehensive work on the vegetative nervous system, and states his aim as only to provide the surgeon with a few simply expressed ideas on the physiology and biology of the subject. The first section is anatomical and is mentioned as "très succincte", but "trop" might be a more suitable adverb. The chemical mediators of autonomic action are next discussed rather more fully. Finally a third section, the longest, is devoted to the clinical applications of knowledge of autonomic function. This contains some of the findings and interpretations of the Tardieus and Reilly, who have worked extensively on the central representations of the autonomic. This work gathered together in a book, "Le Systeme Neuro-Végétatif", by G. and C. Tardieu. Masson. Paris. 1948, reviewed in this journal, (12, 79), is not well known or much accepted in this country. The present small book represents a novel and on the whole unestablished approach to the clinical problems of the autonomic system. Its cursory treatment of the better-founded facts makes one doubtful of its authority for the more controversial.


This book by Professor Delay, one of the leaders of French psychiatry, demands attention as it gathers together his work on physical methods of treatment developed in various publications over the last decade. Although it comprises a wider view of the problems of psychiatry than the work by Professor Puech and his colleagues, the two books are to some extent complementary, as both give us the thought and practice of the Sainte-Anne clinic (see page 197). As the title implies, its approach to mental disease is essentially by way of the physiology of the brain.

In the first part electro- and air-encephalography are considered. This is mainly concerned with diagnosis, but the therapeutic effect of air injection is also mentioned in some detail. The author suggests that two factors may play a part in successful treatment—a relief of intracranial hypotension, and a stimulation of hypothalamic—diencephalic mechanisms, a type of "shock treatment,"—from the air injection. Anything more than transient success here seems mostly in these cases with associated somatic endocrine abnormalities. The author claims that it is accompanied by biochemical and hormonal, as well as emotional and intellectual changes. He does not mention the possibility of temporary worsening of the mental condition, especially where dementia is present.

In the second part shock therapies and psychosurgery are dealt with in detail. The author's experience is in line with that of most other workers in this field. He points out that the indications, especially for psycho-surgery, are at present symptomatic rather than nosological. The results are interpreted in terms of cerebral physiology and anatomy.

In the third and final section pharmacological methods are discussed. Psychose associated with proven hormonal upsets, and "auto-intoxications" from liver or kidney dysfunction which (except in their acute forms) are looked at askance in this country, are mentioned with examples. Phenyl-pyruvate idiocy and alcoholic psychoses are also mentioned. Casperson's work on the dinitrites is briefly discussed, and a claim is made for the use of glutamic acid in certain cases of oligophrenia, though this would seem from recent work to be doubtful. Various other drugs, penicillin in G.P.I., amphetamine, mescal and hashish, are also considered, and a long section on narco-analysis is included. This part of the book is discursive, but illustrates well Professor Delay's physiological approach to mental disease.

The book, as the viewpoint of an important section of French psychiatric opinion, will be of interest to psychiatrists and neurologists. The advantages of its physiological approach, which is widespread in psychiatry today, are clearly seen in the results of shock therapy and psychosurgery. Nevertheless, if these lead to complacency towards the problems of basic causes of mental disease, they may in the long run prove a stumbling-block to psychiatric advance.


This volume is one of a series, the Nouvelle Bibliothèque de l'Etudiant en Médecine, and for the series as a whole the claim is made, no doubt with justice, that "elle renferme toutes les matières qui, au point de vue théorique et pratique, font l'objet de nos cinq examens de doctorat". For both the students' purposes, the acquisition of practical knowledge and the study necessary to pass examinations, this sample of French teaching seems to the British reader to be unwarrantably rigid and formalized. In the first chapter, for instance, in which the presenting features of the patient are discussed, we find the dichotomy "façies sans expression" and "façies avec expression", each of them associated with a separate list of maladies. The same system is followed throughout the book. The "folies raisonantes" are classified into persécuts-persécuteurs, quérulants, processifs; persécuts mélancoliques et persécuts auto-accusateurs; persécuts hypochondriques; persécuts mégalomanes; persécuts jaloux; persécuts érotiques; persécuts religieux; persécuts mixtes; persécuts imaginatifs, persécuts séniles—each of these categories being accorded a separate clinical description. The "délices systématisés", which include besides the "folies raisonantes" also "psychose hallucinatoire chronique" and paranoia, are separated by the chapter on "états convulsifs (épilepsie, hystérie), from the "folies discordantes" to which they are clinically nearly allied.

Although markedly influenced by Kraepelinian nosology, the theoretical background is still mainly
that of the older French psychiatry. References in the
text, which are very greatly too abundant, are almost
eclusively to the French literature; in the very short
and inadequate section on leucotomy, for instance,
there is no mention of the Anglo-American sources
which are most important in this field.

French psychiatry, as is shown by the work of Delay,
Ey and others, is capable of making as valuable con-
tributions to the world literature in the present as it
has in the past; but it can hardly expect to develop its
full stature until it has absorbed the lessons which have
been learned in other lands.

Medizinische Psychologie. By Ernst Kretschmer.

The appearance of the tenth edition of this well-
known work indicates the extent to which it is used
in German-speaking countries as a textbook for medical
students and for those who intend to specialize in
neurology and psychiatry, and thereby emphasizes the
gulf which now separates Germanic and Anglo-American
schools. In this country or in the United States it
would be unthinkable that a textbook of medical
psychology should appear without a lengthy discussion of
Freudian doctrine, and without an appreciation of the
use and the value of tests and the contribution of
psychometric psychology; but it would be almost
equally unlikely that such a textbook in these lands
would make the same attempt to relate medical psychol-
ogy with the basic sciences of physiology, biology,
and neurology in one coherent and well integrated
structure.

After a few pages of philosophical introduction,
Kretschmer comes almost at once to grips with the
anatomical and physiological basis of conscious behav-
ior. In successive chapters he deals with the
inter-relations of cortex and brain-stem, endocrine
system and total bodily habitus; the functions of the
thalamus and the control of affective changes; the
cortex and the significance of lesions causing apraxias,
agnosias and dysnmesias, the frontal syndrome; motor
control and subcortical centres; instinctive drives,
affectivity, the mid-brain and the vegetative-endocrine
system. Succeeding sections cover developmental
psychology, sexual psychology and temperamental types,
the personality and its reactions to the environment,
with a final section on practical applications and
psychotherapy. It will be observed that, though it is
itself somewhat one-sided, this textbook would supply
a much needed corrective to the one-sided approach to
the teaching of medical psychology which is currently
practised at our university centres.

The tenth edition of the book has involved much
new writing, a good deal of use being made of the
experimental work of Hess, and a considerable expansion
of the discussion on the functions of the mid-brain.
Electrophysiological work, which is adding consider-
ably to our knowledge in this and other fields, does not
receive due appreciation.

Modern Discoveries in Medical Psychology. By Clifford
2nd ed. Illustrated. Pp. 235. Price 12s. 6d.

This very readable book describes in a series of ten
essays the development of medical psychology in recent
times. Beginning with Mesmer, the author passes to
Janet, Morton Prince, Freud, Adler, Jung, Kretschmer
and Pavlov, to end up with Wagner-Jauregg and the
physical methods of treatment of mental disorder. In
the earlier essays, the style is so lucid and the language
so untechnical that they might be enjoyed by interested
readers without medical training. The same could
hardly be said for the later chapters. Nevertheless
medical students and general practitioners in search of a
book on these subjects which is written in intelligible
language and holds a fair balance between rival claims
could read it with profit. The author is not entirely
impartial, leaning indeed to the side of the Freudian
orthodoxy, and it is probable that adherents of any one
school would find his presentation of the views of that
school inadequate. In the present state of dissension
in psychiatry, however, it would hardly be possible to
expect more. One small but irritating error might be
corrected in further editions: the name of the Swiss
psychiatrist was Bleuler and not Blectier.

Das Autogene Training (Konzentrativer Selbstents-
pannung). Versuch einer klinisch-praktischen Darstel-
Price DM. 27.–

The author outlines a method of progressive relaxation,
akin to that advocated by Jacobsen, which he believes
be of value in the treatment of a variety of functional
and psychosomatic conditions. Experimental observa-
tions on hypnotic and kindred phenomena which may
be induced in states of relaxation are reported in some
detail and followed by a lengthy theoretical discussion.
Although relaxation therapy is clearly Dr. Schultz's
hobby-horse, his book is written with considerable
dignity and some regard for scientific standards of
evidence. It will undoubtedly interest medical psycholo-
rists and others concerned with psychosomatic
problems. At the same time, it is necessary to warn
the prospective reader that many points of sound
observation are embedded in a diffuse context of teutonic
verbosity and that the author has not seen fit to append
a summary of his argument and principal findings. It
is therefore to be hoped that Dr. Schultz will consider
contributing a short account of his methods and results
to a British journal.

Klinische Psychologie. By Willy Hellpach, M.D.,
Ph.d. With chapters on Klinische Psychologie des
Kindesalters by Bernard de Rudder, M.D., and Klinische
Möglichkeiten Experimenteller Psychodiagnostik by Wil-
helm Witte, Ph.D. 1949. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: Georg
Thieme. Pp. 244. Price DM. 16.50

Clinical psychology, as understood in this country,
diverges in certain respects from what the Americans
mean by it, but it is utterly different in both countries
from the subject dealt with in this book. Clinical psychology (referred to throughout, rather familiarly, as “ki普sy”) is concerned with “all kinds of mental conduct in bodily disorders”; it has nothing to do with mental illness, and very little to do with the use of psychological procedures for investigating the diagnosis or causes of disease. Dr. Witte’s chapter on psycho-diagnostic methods suffers from lack of familiarity with the vigorous growth of this field of applied psychology in the English-speaking countries during the last decade. In the body of the book Professor Hellpach develops his concept of a series of “psychomas” that accompany physical states such as hunger, exhaustion, tuberculosis, typhoid, sepsis and all the rest. These psychomas are transient epiphenomena of the somatic process, he says. The notion is unacceptable, since, as expounded, it lacks precision and logical consistency. The book as a whole is idiosyncratic in language and outlook, and Professor Hellpach’s rather eccentric standpoint is not likely to appeal to physicians.


The literary skill and the candour of this book, which is partly autobiographical, counteract the tedium induced by its lack of form. It is instructive to learn how Dr. Reik’s mind works when he is psychoanalysing somebody: but we discover, as we read on, that some other psychoanalysts do it differently. He has large funds of disapproval for psychiatrists (he is a non-medical psychoanalyst) and is rather out of sympathy with many of the younger Freudsians, especially when they use what he calls “psychoanalale” with slick assurance. His theme is the intuitive understanding, the native psychological perspicacity which the psychoanalyst should possess and constantly use if he is to be successful in his therapy: otherwise he becomes an “interpreting automaton”. The book discloses a strongly marked personality and an artistic approach to the problem of human motives and conduct, incongruously allied with a tendency to anatomize and elaborate some rather simple matters (like the cartoon from Punch which is reproduced in Chapter XXIV). In contrast to many pretentious and stilted accounts of psychoanalytic procedure, this book discloses the inevitably personal, subjective and in many ways fortuitous character of the analyst’s intervention.


Dr. Reik, who is a slightly unconventional Freudian psychopathologist, asks himself why men sometimes strive for objects that entail physical and mental distress, voluntarily submitting to privations, sacrifices, and shame in spite of their customary avoidance of pain. Moralists and philosophers have tackled this problem before, but they have not related it so centrally to the sexual aberration called masochism. Dr. Reik arrives, after a lengthy and discursive journey through the problem, at the conclusion that the masochist aims at pleasure but is driven by anxiety and guilt to take up a defiant attitude, and so follows a perverse road to the attainment of his object. The book is a long essay in psychoanalytic speculation, and has no scientific pretensions.


Professor Scheele has written a series of 12 essays on the many ways in which patients can be affected by anxiety, and of the duties of the doctor in relation to them. Thus there are essays on the physiological effects of disagreeable emotions, on the anxiety the patient is likely to suffer during investigation, during treatment or before admission to hospital, at the prospect of disfigurement or maiming, the fear of death. The book is of general medical interest, and not specially noteworthy for the psychiatrist, but it is informed by a simple clarity and wisdom which should commend it.


This is a useful compendium for general readers. It contains a straightforward account of what mental deficiency is, illustrated by a few case-records, with notes on the genetic, cultural, material, physical, educational, and emotional determinants of the situation that physicians are confronted with in a mentally defective person brought to them for treatment or advice. Dr. Kanner pleads for invigoration and extension of the prevailing system for coping with mental deficiency in the United States.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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


BOOK REVIEWS

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