
This publication reports the Proceedings of the First International Meeting of Neurobiologists held in August, 1955. Those who are interested in, but not engaged in neurophysiological researches will find in these papers some valuable indications of the trends of current work. They include a study of the distance which separates individual cortical nerve fibres from each other, and the site of fibre synapses in the cortex, the inhibitory pathway to motoneurones, the possible function of the pineal gland, and the fibre structure of the reticular formation.


This is the second, and enlarged, edition of a textbook of neurosurgery which was first published six years ago. The author is one of the outstanding neurosurgeons in Spain, and has had much to do with the development of his specialty in that country. He began his training in England under the late Sir Hugh Cairns, and served his apprenticeship in Mexico before returning to start a neurosurgical clinic in Madrid.

The book, written in Spanish, is a sound exposition of current neurosurgical thought and practice. There are chapters on clinical diagnosis, special investigations, pathology, infections, tumours, epilepsy, malformations, neuralgias, extrapyramidal syndromes, and technique—on all of which the subject writes with the authority of a considerable experience. There is a comprehensive bibliography. The numerous illustrations are adequate but on the whole they do not match the excellence of the text.

This is a useful volume for those who read Spanish and no well-found library should be without it.


This monograph is based on the authors' personal experience of 439 cases of cerebral tumour of which 229 were studied because of mental changes. There is an extensive description of the nature of these changes which are subdivided into confusional states and dementia, disorders of personality, and episodic effects such as hallucinations. This classification forms the basis of several tables which demonstrate considerable localizing value of certain symptom-complexes. The section on tumours of the mesencephalon and diencephalon is particularly interesting because of the occurrence of defects of memory and Korsakov's syndrome, of which four cases had tumours accurately localized in the region of the mammillary bodies. The bibliography contains many references to the French literature. The work is a very useful survey of the mental changes in cerebral tumours and their value in localization.


This book is the fourth in the series of Bellevue Studies of Child Psychiatry. It discusses the psychopathology of children frustrated by various organic brain disorders, such as congenital deviations, birth injuries, encephalitis, cerebellar disorders, head injuries, and maturation defects. It consists essentially of papers published over the last 25 years or so by Professor Bender and her colleagues, some re-written with new material. It is doubtful whether a collection of papers can be welded into a successful textbook, and one gets the impression that this book is a collection of fragments, albeit inspired fragments. It lacks balance, and important subjects, such as congenital diplegia and epilepsy, are not allowed their due importance. Professor Bender has rendered a service by making these scattered papers available in a more convenient form; but it should not be assumed that the book provides a balanced and thorough coverage of its subject.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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


BOOK REVIEWS


Mental Deficiency in Relation to Problems of Genesis, Social and Occupational Consequences, Utilization, Control and Prevention. By J. E. Wallin; Foreword by Frederick C. Thorne. (Pp. xv + 200. $5.00.) Brandon, Vermont: Journal of Clinical Psychology. 1956.


THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

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SHERRINGTON CENTENARY

This is the centenary year of the birth of Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, O.M., a founder and main architect of the physiology of the nervous system. The Royal Society of Medicine, wishing to pay tribute to his life and work, proposes to raise a fund towards a Sherrington Lecture, for the furtherance of knowledge on the nervous system, to be delivered from time to time in the Society's rooms in London.

It is felt that many will wish to contribute: both those who were his friends, pupils and colleagues, and those, more numerous, who, as patients, doctors and scientists, have benefited indirectly from his work.

We wish to take this opportunity to commend the endeavours of the Royal Society of Medicine to establish this memorial to a great pioneer in scientific medicine.

Donations should be made payable to the Secretary, The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1, and cheques crossed "Sherrington Memorial".

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Stirling Professor of the History of Medicine,
Yale University

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