JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY NEUROSURGERY AND PSYCHIATRY

Volume XXI
New Series
1958

ISSUED BY THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
LONDON: BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE
TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1
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Editor of the *British Medical Journal*
except at operation but the intradural type often shows a characteristic pattern on myelography; treatment of the latter, however, is most unsatisfactory.

I am grateful to Dr. F. R. Ferguson for permission to publish these cases and to Mr. G. B. Northcroft for details of the later progress of Case 1.

REFERENCES

THE NOVEMBER (1957) ISSUE

The November (1957) issue contains the following papers:—

Arteriovenous Malformations of the Brain and their Effect upon the Cerebral Vessels. Juan Carrasco-Zanini.
The Late Sequelae of Pneumococcal Meningitis. Honor V. Smith, R. M. Norman, and H. Urich.
Neurological Manifestations in Haemangioma of the Vertebrae. H. Askenasy and A. Behmoaram.
Rapidly Progressing Dementia in Disseminated Sclerosis. J. D. Bergin.
Fatal Damage to the Brain by Epileptic Convulsions after a Trivial Injury to the Head. J. M. Small and A. L. Woolf.
Frequency Analysis of Physiological and Neurotic Tremors. J. W. T. Redfearn.
Book Reviews.
Index to Volume 20.

A number of copies are still available and may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, price 12s. 6d.
disorders one has the impression that psychotherapy is
the treatment of choice, for E.C.T. receives scant mention.
It comes somewhat as a surprise, therefore, to read
further on in the same chapter that the authors feel that
they can dispense with instructions about the maintenance
of the physical health of depressed patients because
"the advent of shock therapy . . . makes patients' symptoms evolve so rapidly . . .

The literature surveyed is almost exclusively American:
on the subject of post-traumatic syndromes, for instance,
one reads with astonishment that " according to verbal
reports from the Office of Scientific Research and
Development", the duration of the period of un-
consciousness following head injury is the best guide to
the severity of the post-traumatic changes. In these
days of fast travel, it should not take 23 years for Ritchie
Russell's work to cross the Atlantic.

All in all, a very uneven book, likely to confuse rather
than educate.

The Clinical Examination of Patients with Organic
(Pp. xii + 96; 9 figures. 15x.) London: Cassell.
1957.

The examination of the patient with organic cerebral
disease often falls between the two stools of psychiatry
and neurology. While the neurologist is interested in
dysphasia and its ramifications, he is often uninterested
in or ignorant of confusional states and their content.
The psychiatrist on the other hand may recognize clearly
enough the confusional state and assign a correct psycho-
genesis to some of its contents while missing the element
of agnosia or apraxia that is playing a part in the clinical
picture. It is just such a borderland that this small book
deals with. Its systematic approach will be useful to
both neurologists and psychiatrists who do not meet a
great many of such cases, although those who see many
may feel that many aspects really require rather fuller
treatment than is here afforded. It can be recommended
as an introduction to the subject, particularly to students
for the Diploma of Psychological Medicine.

Pneumoencephalography. By E. Graeme Robertson.
(Pp. xxi + 482; 34 plates, 209 figures. 110x.) Oxford:
Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois:

This book is the third to be written on air encephalo-
graphy by this author since he became interested in
the subject over 20 years ago. He is well known as one
of the originators of modern techniques of air encephalo-
graphy which have greatly increased its safety and
decreased its discomforts. Other workers have tended to
simplify the technique and have adapted it to investigate
patients with raised intracranial pressure, a practice
which the author himself deprecates.

This volume contains clear descriptions of the author's
 technique of air encephalography, of the normal brain
anatomy disclosed by air injections, and of his theories
on the mechanism of ventricular filling. Much of those
sections appeared in previous volumes, but their repro-
duction is welcome because copies of the author's first
book (" Encephalography ") have been unobtainable in
this country for several years. This present book also
contains excellent descriptions of the abnormal conditions
likely to be encountered, including injuries, vascular
disease, congenital lesions, and diseases in childhood.
The section on space-occupying lesions shows the
reasons for the various abnormal signs produced by
masses in different situations, rather than giving mere
lists of changes. The author pays particular attention to
information obtained from deformity of the basal
cisterns in all his descriptions. There is also a very
useful chapter on the causes of failure to obtain air-filling
of the ventricles and on the remedies to be applied.

The book is well printed and is profusely illustrated
with clearly coloured plates and excellent radiographs.
It should become a standard text-book on the subject
of air encephalography and should appeal to all those
who are interested in neuroradiology.

Tranquilizing Drugs. Arranged and edited by Harold
E. Himwich. (Pp. viii + 205; 32 figures.) London:
Bailey Bros. & Swinfen. 1957.

This small volume represents the outcome of a
symposium on tranquilizing drugs arranged jointly by
the American Psychiatric Association and the American
Physiological Society. Experimental investigations in
animals of some of the electrophysiological effects
are reported. Clinical aspects of the drugs, especially in
the treatment of psychotic states, are also described, and
some problems of dosage and side-effects are mentioned.
The book will be of interest to psychiatrists and
neurologists wishing to know something of applied
biochemistry in this field.

Correction

In this paper, "The Entry of Radiosodium and of
Bromide into Human Cerebrospinal Fluid" (J. Neurol.
Neurosurg. Psychiat., 20, 79) by R. B. Bourdillon,
M. Fischer-Williams, Honor V. Smith, and K. B. Taylor,
Figs. 1 and 4 have been transposed, though the legends
are in the correct positions. Thus the legend under
the present Fig. 1 explains the graph shown as Fig. 4 and
vice versa. In addition, the legend to Fig. 1 should read:
Effects of age in patients with no abnormal physical
signs.

Societa' Italiana di Neuro Chirurgia

The Societa' Italiana di Neuro Chirurgia will hold its
ninth congress in Florence on April 24 and 25, 1958.
Two subjects will be discussed:

(1) Cerebral abscesses and suppurative encephalitis
(2) Cervical discal herniations and cervical spondylosis

Further information may be obtained from the
Secretary (Dr. Giulio Morello, Via Celoria 11, Milan,
Italy).