of a meningocele before drainage was attempted. The use of cortisone to prevent abdominal reactions appeared to have some value and in the past 18 months a four-week course of cortisone had been given post-operatively in all cases. In all 33 cases had been treated with 85% successful results.

The outstanding problem of the operation was how to allow for the child’s growth. Leaving spare coils of tube in the lateral ventricle or abdomen was unsatisfactory and the use of telescoping drains had been unsuccessful. The natural stretch of the silicone tube might compensate for some degree of growth but it was hoped that many of the cases might stabilize after a period of drainage. If necessary there was no reason why the procedure should not be repeated when the child outgrew the tube.

The operation probably had some value in post-inflammatory cases where a spinal block or raised intracranial pressure had developed. It was even possible in the active stages of tuberculous meningitis and no evidence of peritoneal involvement had followed such drainage. Eight such patients had been treated, seven of whom were still alive, and three further patients in an inactive phase had been treated, of whom two were still alive. Nine cases of pyogenic meningitis had been treated of which seven were still alive. Further conditions considered for this operation were subdural haematoma, pseudo-meningocele, pseudo-tumour cerebri, brain-stem tumours, and those cases where ventriculo-cisternostomy had failed.

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The appearance of section two completes the 13th volume of the Henke-Lubarsch Handbook. Part A (pp. 1,325) deals solely with inflammatory disease of the central nervous system. The principal contributions are from Ludo van Bogaert, of Antwerp, who writes on the encephalitides and poliomyelitis; Hans Schleussing, of Munich, on meningitis; Gerd Peters, of Bonn, on multiple sclerosis and other demyelinating diseases; Ernst Strässler, of Vienna, and O. Gagel, of Nuremburg, on neurosyphilis; and S. Scheidegger, of Basle, on tuberculosis, malaria, mycotic infections, and leprosy.

Part B (pp. 1,376) contains massive contributions from three authors: F. Erbsloh, of Munich, who writes on the neuropathological manifestations of various systemic diseases, including endocrine and blood disorders: Angel Pentschew, of Washington, on the intoxications and deficiency disease; and Hans-Joachim Colmant, of Bonn, on the various forms of motor neurone disease.

The Henke-Lubarsch Handbook is uniquely huge. Volume 13, which covers the pathology of the nervous system, consists of seven large books (of which the two parts under review are the largest), occupies 14 inches of shelf space, weighs 35 lb. and costs about £206 10s.

It is, and is likely to remain for several years, the major work of reference for neuropathologists all over the world—if they are fortunate enough to have access to it.


Much gratitude is due to anyone who undertakes the tedious labour of compiling an annotated bibliography of a rapidly expanding scientific field. Dr. de Boor has carried out this arduous task, as part of his effort to produce a compendium of "pharmaco-psychology". In order to keep his text within manageable limits, he has had to select from the vast literature; it is sometimes possible to disagree with his choice, but on the whole a balanced and informative picture is offered of the state of knowledge up to 1954. The chief defects are the relatively inadequate coverage of publications in English, and the lack of critical evaluation in the accounts of what individual workers have reported: these defects are particularly evident in the section on alcohol. Dr. de Boor hopes that this edition of his book will be the first step towards a complete review of the relevant material, carried out by a team of experts: the development of the subject, however, points to the need for a series of yearbooks rather than for a comprehensive treatise.
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The author of this beautifully printed monograph evidently collected and examined his electroencephalographic data with loving care, while treating his psychological data with casual brevity. More than half of his text is devoted to a survey of the literature; of the remainder, in which he describes and discusses the observations made on 30 normal subjects, very little is concerned with the psychological tests and their detailed results. The treatment of these results is primitive, so that the reader has no means of judging whether the author's tentative conclusions about the relation between electroencephalographic and personality variables are warranted.


Group psychotherapy has developed in a haphazard way which makes it difficult to trace and know its various current forms. Dr. Corsini has here provided an impartial though not uncritical guide. In the first half of his book he details the history, theory, and procedures of group psychotherapy, with additional chapters on the desirable characteristics of the group therapist and on the evaluation, such as it is, of the various methods. The second half of the book offers verbatim samples of what goes on in four kinds of group treatment—the approximately psychoanalytic, the non-directive, the family-counselling, and the psychodramatic varieties. Though the review of the literature ends in 1955, it is fair and comprehensive, and shows keen awareness of those crucial questions about technique, indications, and modus operandi, which remain unanswered.


This monograph provides a comprehensive review based upon a large personal experience and a knowledge of the literature. Although in the majority of cases the diagnosis can readily be made, in a proportion of patients with an evident intracranial tumour, the possibility that the tumour is acoustic is not even entertained. Such cases are described in this book and emphasis is laid upon the need for careful tests of hearing and of labyrinthine function. It is in the attention to the disturbances of function of the acoustic and trigeminal nerves that early diagnosis can be achieved and the use of the word "early" in the title of this book implies an emphasis which is hardly present. Operative treatment is discussed in detail and the pros and cons of partial and of total enucleation carefully set out. It is a pity that this important section of the book has not been provided with better illustrations. Neurosurgeons will be interested to learn that tracheotomy is performed so frequently, often as a precautionary measure against anticipated respiratory complications. The book will be of value to all neurosurgeons, and neurologists and otologists will find much of interest in it. It provides a vivid commentary upon the progress made in neurological surgery since Cushing wrote in 1917 that "the foolhardiness of attempting a total extirpation was not yet fully realised".


False confessions, traitorous submission, acceptance of abhorrent beliefs—these evidences of what tyranny, torture, and ruthless indoctrination can achieve are miserably well known to our generation. Since the techniques used to bring about such results are patently psychological, and are reputed to be applications of what is known about conditioning, suggestion, motivation, and other such mental processes, it was inevitable that some psychiatrists, as experts in morbid psychology, would offer interpretations of what happens to individuals and to communities who use or who suffer these criminal techniques. Unfortunately their explanations commonly outrun the available facts, and become speculative musings or doctrinaire pronouncements. Dr. Meerloo's book is a tract for the times, drawing attention not only to the dangers of "brain-washing" and coercion but also to unobtrusive interference with our thoughts and feelings by mechanization, the growth of bureaucracy, and social pressures. He surveys all this from clinical, psychoanalytical, and Pavlovian standpoints. His outlook is liberal and his survey broad, though not penetrating: it would be more profitable reading for optimists than for cynics. There is relatively little technical jargon in this book, but at times the author tumbles into the pitfall, as when he tells us that "totalitarianism is man's escape from the fearful realities of life into the virtual womb of the leader"; or that "Moloney compares this sudden yielding with the theophany or kenosis (internal conversion) as described by some theological rites".


This is an unassuming account of the work done in a unit conducted by Dr. Minski for the differentiation of mentally defective from deaf children and others with defective speech. It makes no pretence at surveying the literature of the subject, or assessing the relative diagnostic value of the physiological and psychological tests employed. Though medical readers would require more detailed evidence than is set out in it, this little book serves a modestly useful purpose as a simple statement of current practice, based on personal experience.


This handsomely produced volume represents con-
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Conclusions based upon an anatomical study of 90 post-mortem brains. In a number of these, parallel needles, aligned by passage through a perforated metal plate, were passed into the brain through the skull either at right angles to the sagittal plane or parallel to it. Radiographs were taken in each of these two planes after injection of contrast media into the ventricles. The calvarium was partially removed to allow access of fixative, and 24 to 48 hours later the needles were removed and the brain examined. The remainder of the series were fixed in situ and the series of needles inserted after removal from the skull. In all specimens, the space between the needles being known, it was possible to measure the length of the “base line” and the dimensions of any particular nuclear structure.

The “base line” chosen was that connecting the anterior and posterior commissures of the third ventricle and through each of these a perpendicular was drawn. The position of the “base line” was also indicated at each antero-posterior level.

Histological examination was carried out on 10 brains of the series and sections were stained for myelin only. The remainder were cut into 2 mm. slices. From this study the conclusion is drawn that the various diencephalic nuclei maintain a constant relationship to the base line whatever the individual variations in its length. Thus, for the thalamus, a rectangle, drawn in the lateral encephalogram, is enclosed by the base line, the perpendiculare through the commissures, and a line parallel to the base line through the summit of the thalamus in the floor of the lateral ventricle. The two dimensions of this rectangle may vary from case to case, but the coordinates of any one nucleus are stated to vary proportionately.

It has not proved possible to evolve a similar proportional method for the lateral dimensions which are, therefore, represented by standard values in the antero-posterior film.

For any one structure, areas or “zones of security”, are plotted in the lateral and antero-posterior films which represent the mean areas, for the structure, common to all specimens studied.

It is to be noted that 10 brains (histologically studied) is probably too small a number upon which to base the claim that the diencephalic and sub-thalamic nuclei bear a constant relationship to the intercommissural base line, particularly as such a claim is at variance with the conclusions of other workers. Further, the statement appears in the text to the effect that the perpendicular through the posterior commissure always passes at the posterior limit of the centromedian nucleus of the thalamus, while in three illustrations portraying this level the partially or fully developed centromedian nucleus can be seen.

The atlas proper consists of a presentation of the lateral and antero-posterior zones of security for the thalamic, subthalamic, and hypothalamic nuclei as well as the basal ganglia. In addition, various lateral and antero-posterior levels are depicted for each structure. It would appear, however, that this section cannot be described as an atlas in that no level illustrated is accompanied by any indication of its position in relation to the commissures or base line.


This book comes from the Pavlov Institute of Neurology in Bucharest and is a welcome though ambitious attempt at a complete account of the physiology of the cerebellum and its disorder by disease, a herculean task for any author, which, in this case, very nearly succeeds.

The book begins with a discussion of the phylogenesis, morphology, and histology of the cerebellum which is excellent and well illustrated. The remainder of the book is a combination of a critical review of the literature (both eastern and western) with accounts of the authors’ own experience of human cerebellar lesions and of cerebellar ablation and stimulation in mammals. Chapter by chapter the relationship of the cerebellum with the spinal cord, the brain-stem, vestibular apparatus, and cerebral cortex are authoritatively discussed. When describing deficits of function, however, the authors are somewhat obsessed and overwhelmed at having to describe the “signs” so beloved by continental neurologists as the empirical necessity for diagnostic localization. Few of these remnants of Salpêtrière dogma are used by English neurologists today because, though the many reflex changes of cerebellar dysfunction are well
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recognized, each change may be determined by a common disorder of function of the postural reflexes.

We would expect any work originating in “L’Institut de Neurologie I.P. Pavlov” to correlate changes in conditioned reflexes with the experimental lesions, and in this we are not disappointed, even though it is a short account tagged on to the end of the chapter on the cerebral-cerebellar relationships.

The final chapter on general theories about cerebellar function is disappointingly short and fails to summarize or amalgamate the experimental and review material. This reader is surprised that any account of posture and its disorders can be written without even mentioning muscle spindles, and it is unfortunate that Granit’s brilliant work on the cerebellum is completely ignored.


In this book Dr. Wolpe presents a new method of psychotherapy. His argument is that only three kinds of processes are known which can bring about lasting changes in an organism’s habit of response to a given stimulus situation: growth, lesions, and learning. Neurotic behaviour originates in learning, so that it is to be expected that its elimination will be a matter of “unlearning”. He applied the known laws of learning to the special problem of neurosis and the technique of therapy by reciprocal inhibition emerged. The term “reciprocal inhibition” is borrowed from Sherrington who used it to describe the inhibition of one spinal reflex by another. The author expands its use to encompass all situations in which the elicitation of one response appears to bring about a decrement in the strength of evocation of a simultaneous response. The psychotherapeutic application of this is that if a response antagonistic to anxiety can be made to occur in the presence of anxiety-evoking stimuli so that it is accompanied by a complete or partial suppression of the anxiety responses, the bonds between these stimuli and the anxiety responses will be weakened.

Dr. Wolpe discusses his experimental work on cats in which lasting “neurotic” states had been induced and which could be “cured” by getting the animals to eat in the presence of progressively larger “doses” of anxiety-producing stimuli. He then discusses the application of the methods evolved to clinical practice, and gives the results of treating 210 neurotic patients. Of these patients, 39% were apparently cured and 50% were much improved. Only 3.3% were not benefited. These are impressive figures indeed and if substantiated the author has made a major contribution to the treatment of neurosis.


This book comprises a review of the extensive literature on disorders of muscle, apart from dystrophy and purely infective conditions, followed by a very detailed analysis of 40 cases. A method of clinical classification which avoids much confusion in nomenclature is suggested. The present position of the pathological histology of muscular disorder is controversial and the significance of the author’s findings on examination of biopsy specimens is presented with due reserve. They comment, “Although the clinical or pathological features alone may be insufficient for diagnosis, a combination of the two, with the aid of the electromyogram and biochemical tests, will, in our view, define and distinguish polymyositis as a specific syndrome in the majority of cases”.

This account does much to clarify an apparently very diverse group of conditions and will be particularly helpful to clinicians in dealing with the difficult diagnostic and therapeutic problems which these disorders of muscle present.


This psychoanalytic essay is based on observations made during two years at the Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital on 12 schizophrenic women and six schizophrenic men from the “chronic refractory” wards. The patients spent the day in a treatment centre provided with facilities for occupation. One of the authors also frequented a large “female refractory” ward where he would sit for one and a half to four hours a day watching, and would join the nurses at tea to discuss events in the ward. The authors also conducted, at the beginning, joint psychotherapy sessions. The method of recording and analysis used was not, as far as can be judged, systematic, but it consistently attempted to relate clinical observations to psychoanalytic theory. The authors recognize the risks in this procedure but defend it, in agreement with David Rapaport, on the ground that selecting patients’ spontaneous utterances and making inferences from them is the method par excellence of clinical research. Whether this is so or not, it obliges the reader to choose between acceptance of the inferences because he too is a psychoanalyst or uncertainty about their validity because nothing has been done to test, refute or confirm them, they stand on their plausibility.

Anna Freud, quoting in her Preface the authors’ description of their efforts as a “clinical, interpretative, and therapeutic study of schizophrenia”, says that it is a “special merit of this book that it offers more than the sober title leads us to expect”. As schizophrenia is the great riddle of psychiatry, this is indeed high praise. What the book mainly offers is a general account of the psycho-analytic conception of mental functioning and of the psychopathology of schizophrenia, perceptively illustrated by examples drawn from the authors’ observations of their patients’ disturbances of identity, perception, thinking and memory, and finally a description of how the nurses, at first insecure and anxious in their dealings with their patients, were gradually brought to understand them, talk freely to the psychiatrist about them, and become, in the authors’ view, the vital factor in their recovery or otherwise. It is very clear that the
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measures introduced by the investigators had an invaluable effect upon the nurses and were thereby beneficial to the patients, already far advanced in social deterioration and loss of self-respect: though other theoretical approaches (linked, as this was, with genuine interest, warmth, and humanity) have achieved similar, or, it may be, in some respects better results, the experiment here outlined should offer encouragement to psychiatrists and nurses confronted with the vast problem of chronic schizophrenia.


This is Dr. Wartenberg's last book, completed only a short time before his death. It is a most scholarly account of both the literature and his personal experience of disorders of the peripheral nerves, excluding traumatic lesions. It is therefore most valuable as a reference book. Clinical presentations are meticulously described. The discussions are almost entirely in terms of anatomy and histology. The work, therefore, is not only the final achievement of a distinguished neurologist; it is also among the last studies in classical neurology.


Into this comparatively small book Professor Zülch, who is one of the world's leading authorities on tumours of the nervous system, has packed an enormous amount of information, much of which is not readily available elsewhere.

The first hundred pages are devoted to general considerations. The problems of classification, of histogenesis, and of aetiology are rapidly but thoroughly dealt with: statistics, with pictorial diagrams, are given for age, sex, and sites of predilection; and the general biological characters of brain tumours, including their secondary effects and their response to radiation, are discussed in some detail.

Eighty pages contain highly compressed descriptions of the various types of intracranial neoplasms, with excellent photographs of gross and microscopic specimens. The terminology used corresponds to that commonly adopted in this country, except that the term "spongiosoblastoma" is applied to the most benign type of astrocytoma—the cerebellar astrocytoma of childhood. A further 10 pages are usefully spent in consideration of other space-occupying processes, including parasitic cysts and granulomata.

The final section is concerned with the technical details of pathological investigation. There is a copious bibliography.

Altogether, this is a most businesslike monograph, and would repay translation into English.


This monograph reports the E.E.G. findings in nearly 700 patients with brain tumours seen in the Neurosurgical and E.E.G. Departments of the University of Zurich.

The report is mainly a statistical one on the varieties of abnormalities found in routine encephalography correlated with the site of the tumour. The work is very carefully done and reported in detail. No correlations with the type of tumour are attempted nor are any special E.E.G. methods included. There is only a brief discussion of theoretical problems.

The monograph is mainly of interest to electroencephalographers but gives a very clear and critical picture of the value of routine technique in the diagnosis of tumours.


This short monograph on infantile hydrocephalus is based on more than 300 cases operated on at l’Hopital des Enfants Malades. Dr. Klein discusses the various causes of the condition, prefacing this with a description of the cerebrospinal fluid concentration. He favours operation at an early stage before serious damage to the brain has occurred and, judging by the photographs of smiling children with normal-sized heads following operation, he has successful results.


This is the third edition of a book by the Professor of Anatomy at Wayne State University College of Medicine, Detroit, designed to present the basic factors of the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system for the student starting his clinical work in neurology. Books of this type must, presumably, be of value for a number of them have appeared in the last 10 to 15 years and some, including this one, have gone through several editions. The subject is adequately and interestingly dealt with and there are a number of useful diagrams. There is a well selected list of books for more detailed reading, and a valuable and original feature, a glossary of terms used in neurology with their classical derivations.


This small book gives the impression of having been put together hurriedly. Homosexuality and transvestism are discussed only superficially, and most of the book is devoted to the operation of "change of sex", by which the author means change of external genitalia by operation. The operation consists of three stages—castration, amputation of the penis, and the creation of a vagina, the last being regarded as somewhat of a "luxury".
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The author describes three male transvestites who were so treated because they threatened suicide unless something were done about their unhappy condition, and had indeed made nearly successful attempts. The question of thus operating on transvestites is complex, and can be discussed in its moral, legal, and pragmatic aspects. The author’s attempt to do so is all too superficial.

He emphasizes at all times the constitutional aspects of homosexuality and transvestism; but this chapter on transvestism, describing a few famous historical transvestites, such as the Abbé de Choisy and “Monsieur”, the brother of Louis XIV, seems to stress rather the importance of training in the development of this condition. It is disappointing that there is no discussion of sex determination by chromosome study, a field in which some support for the author’s dogmatic statements might possibly be found.


“Autonomic dyspraxia” is defined by the author as “disordered action of the autonomic control of the smooth-muscle and glandular structures throughout the body, the essential lesion lying in the hypothalamus, an emotional crisis being sine qua non.”

In fact, what he is concerned with are the common psychoneurotic and psychosomatic states, all of which are attributed in a somewhat indiscriminate manner to autonomic imbalance. No new data are reported and no direct evidence of primary hypothalamic dysfunction is adduced.

In view of the well-established connotation of the term “dyspraxia” in clinical neurology, its use in the present context is to be regretted.


This symposium includes much of the current knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the cerebrospinal fluid and its pathways. The discussions at the end of each section will be chiefly of value to workers in the subject and to those contemplating experimental work involving cerebrospinal fluid or meninges. Many of the problems are clearly presented and much of the discussion is stimulating.


The appearance of another edition of this well-known book testifies to its usefulness to students of neuropsychiatry. A vast field is covered but although the approach is imaginative it is at times superficial. A list of references at the end of each chapter, however, indicates to the student how he can explore the subjects more fully.


This volume contains a number of papers on various aspects of viral encephalitis presented at a symposium of the Houston Neurological Society in 1957. The rate of progress of the knowledge of this subject has been such that a series of up-to-date critical reviews by authorities in different fields might be expected to be of great value to neurologists wishing to keep abreast of current thought. The reader with such expectations will not be disappointed. The range covered is comprehensive, including accounts of the methods of identifying and distinguishing the neurotropic viruses, the practical problems of clinical and laboratory diagnosis, and a lucid account of the epidemiology of the western equine and St. Louis types of encephalitis. Dr. Knox Finley contributes a valuable study of the sequelae of these two diseases from which it emerges that severe and often irreversible damage to the brain is not uncommon and is especially frequent when the disease is acquired during the first year of life. A review of the pathology of viral disease in man characterized by nuclear inclusions by several authors, including Dr. Webb Haymaker and Dr. L. van Bogaert, with a complete bibliography, occupies half the volume, dealing mainly with the encephalitis known to be caused by herpes simplex, and the disease known as subacute inclusion encephalitis. The evidence for and against the identity of the acute and subacute varieties of this disease is discussed, the co-authors being unable to agree upon this question and presenting their arguments in detail. That the subacute form is the same disease as that originally described by van Bogaert as subacute sclerosing leukoencephalitis is accepted, the question whether this is a smouldering herpes simplex infection being left unanswered, after full discussion. Dr. Herald R. Cox in the final contribution discusses current trends in the control of neurotropic viral diseases and has much of interest to say about vaccination for poliomyelitis. He is uncertain whether the Salk vaccine will provide the eventual solution of the problem and emphasizes the importance of insuring that the occurrence of poliomyelitis is not being postponed from childhood until later in life, when the disease is more severe and paralysis and death are more frequent. He gives a detailed account of the recent attempts to produce immunity by the oral administration of attenuated live virus. This is a book which should be read by all neurologists, and possessed by those who can afford its price.


This is an excellent little publication which will be most useful to all those concerned with instructing laymen in the elements of health and disease.