There is also a short section on the methods of estimation of magnesium in body fluids and tissues. A 10-page bibliography is included, and the monograph can be recommended as a useful addition to the literature of a field that is at present not too well covered.

R. H. S. THOMPSON


This short monograph deals with the mechanisms of pain, mainly the physiological background though the psychological and even philosophical are mentioned. Referred pain, the problem of peripheral and central pathways, and the biological implications of pain are all discussed. The author puts forward the 'classical' theory of pain production and perception, and criticizes it carefully. This book is a useful resume of work in this field and a full list of references is given. The subject is one which should interest both neurologists and psychiatrists.


This volume (in French and in English) reports the proceedings of an international conference held in Montpellier in August 1961: there were 41 participants from 14 countries. The subject is of enormous contemporary interest to both physiologists and clinicians and many will find this collection of authoritative articles to be of very great interest and value.


This book, written by an experienced clinical psychologist, brings together a good deal of useful information concerning psychological tests and their applications in clinical neurology. Although the author perhaps takes her tests a little too seriously, there is no doubt that she is well aware of the snags and does not claim too much for her methods.

Her detailed accounts of the psychometric findings in a variety of clinical cases should be of considerable value to the neophyte, so often perplexed by the range and inconsistency of psychological deficit. It is a pity, however, that so little attempt is made to relate the test methods to the classical syndromes of organic neurology or to suggest more precise experimental analysis of the deficits which their use may disclose. The mere existence of a psychological test, often devised for quite other purposes, is not necessarily a good reason for its use in the neurological clinic. To have value, a test should relate to deficits already known to be of diagnostic significance or to aptitudes important for occupational resettlement. Some of Dr. Burgemeister's tests, such as the Bender-Gestalt and certain of the Wechsler-Bellevue subtests, would appear to satisfy this criterion. Others, for example, the Rorschach, almost certainly do not.


This is the fourth edition and the twentieth year of publication of this useful work. It maintains its high standards, and the present edition has the advantage of a younger mind in Dr. Peter Dally as co-author. This is the first new edition for nine years. Physical methods, especially drugs, have blossomed luxuriantly during this time. However, a reasonably critical attitude has been maintained without serious sacrifice of therapeutic novelty. Here Dr. Slater's statistical expertise will stand his readers in good stead. A hundred pages of the 313 pages of text are still devoted to leucotomy and insulin treatment. Both these have been considerably eroded by new drug treatments and will probably be pruned in later editions. Meanwhile the book remains a balanced guide to physical treatment in psychiatry.


This book will be known to English readers through the late E. B. Strauss's translation of the fourth German edition, which appeared in 1934. It is unusual in that it belongs neither to the Kraepelinian nor to the Freudian tradition, being far more an attempt to envisage psychopathological issues along the lines of Jacksonian evolutionary neurology. A rather perfunctory comparison of this edition with Strauss's translation does not suggest that there has been any great change in the author's outlook, though some new material has been added and a few sections extensively revised. (Unfortunately, this revision does not extend to the author's classification of physique and temperament, which appears here much as it did 30 years ago.) Nonetheless, Professor Kretschmer's book has much to commend it, and should be of interest to neurologists in search of a rational basis for psychological medicine.


For many years Professor Schipkowensky of Sofia has paid special attention to the relationship between criminal behaviour and mental subnormality. In his monograph he surveys this large topic and discusses most of the related issues. After a brief historical survey and an outline of the various concepts of mental subnormality different types of criminal behaviour are reviewed in turn, each one illustrated by clinical examples. The author lays great stress on the part played by disorders of personality among the criminally subnormal and he tackles the vexed problem of responsibility in terms of this association. Even if all his opinions will not command universal agreement his arguments are always lucid and the case material of great interest, especially to workers in the forensic field.

MICHAEL SHEPHERD
Book reviews

Michael Shepherd

*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1963 26: 283
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.26.3.283

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/26/3/283.citation

**Email alerting service**

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/