changes in parasellar lesions are hardly touched on though they form the keystone of diagnosis in this area; much of the recent work on cervical spondylosis has been omitted, including anterior operations of the Croward type.

The newer concepts of brain damage in injuries hardly get a hearing though many date back to the 1939-45 war; the newer ideas on nerve conduction in testing injuries are not described; and the arguments for and against hypothermia are not clearly stated nor are the methods available described.

The subject matter is not well arranged; who would expect to find a description of the anatomy of the skull, meninges, and vessels in the middle of the book under cranio-cerebral injuries? Looking for specific facts the index is often unhelpful and could be elaborated.

This book will certainly find a place on the shelves of most young neurosurgeons for it contains much that is good and is the only textbook of neurosurgery of manageable size available. Its aims are, however, too diffuse and a change of emphasis to the surgical or neurological aspects of these diseases might be of value in subsequent editions.

Brodie Hughes


This comprehensive monograph is based on 70 cases of primary tumours of the vertebral column which have been investigated by the neurosurgical service at Marseilles. The clinical, radiological, and pathological features are very well presented, and a concluding chapter concerns principles of treatment. There is a bibliography of over 500 references. This book may be recommended to neurosurgeons, radiologists, and neurologists as a detailed review of the subject and as a mine of valuable personal observation.


This monograph presents a study of 170 neurosurgical patients with respiratory disorders of central origin, mostly of acute onset. The abnormalities of respiratory movement are classified and shown to be determined by the localization rather than pathogenesis of the lesion. Respiratory efficiency, as measured by the levels of the blood gases, and the sensitivity of the medullary respiratory centre, as judged by the response to an increasing partial pressure of carbon dioxide, are related to the varieties of disordered respiration. Two clinical situations are distinguished: heightened sensitivity of the respiratory centre, which occurs with restlessness, rigidity and extensor spasms, and diminished sensitivity, in a setting of hypotonia and relative indifference to pain. Finally, the relevance of these findings to the use of sedatives and of stimulants in therapy is discussed.

The work is clearly and concisely presented, and complemented by an adequate index and an unusually extensive bibliography.

M. Kinsbourne


The authors of this short book give a useful summary of the evidence relating handedness to cerebral dominance. They also report a careful comparative study of the effects of unilateral hemisphere lesions in right- and left-handed patients respectively, having regard to the incidence of agnosia, apraxia, and disorders of the body scheme as well as disorders of language. Their analysis indicates that disorders in all these spheres tend to be more common, though as a rule milder and less long-lasting, in sinistrals than in dextrals, irrespective of the laterality of the lesion. Differences also appear to exist in the pattern of disability associated with unilateral lesions; receptive speech defects, for example, seldom present in severe degree in dysphasic sinistrals whereas disorders of the body scheme are if anything more complicated than in dextrals.

Although such differences have been reported before, this is perhaps the first study of its kind in which statistical tests of significance have been applied where appropriate.

In the light of their findings, the authors postulate that the mode of organization of higher cerebral function in sinistrals differs appreciably from that in dextrals, and may perhaps be said to display less well-marked unilateral specialization. Although not all neurologists will agree with this view, the evidence on which it is based deserves close study by everyone interested in the problem of cerebral dominance.


This book describes the mechanism by which various nerves are injured by muscular action and fibrous bands. Many neurologists will be more familiar with the terms 'occupational' or 'compression' neuropathy. It is a good idea to bring these cases together as has been done here and the anatomical relationships are well presented. However, it is surprising to find that emphasis is so much on the pain caused by these neuropathies and so little on the distribution of the muscular paralysis on which accurate diagnosis depends so much; indeed these cases are often quite painless. Thus there seems to be no clear account of the syndromes resulting from a neuropathy causing a block of the posterior interosseous or of the anterior interosseous nerves in the forearm. However, this is a useful publication which draws attention to a rather neglected subject.

W. Ritchie Russell


This is a useful little book which not only brings together the scattered literature of this subject but which also contains the author's personal observations on 200 diabetic patients. The clinical findings in those with neuropathy are well described, and there is also a detailed account of electro-physiological studies carried out in
collaboration with Dr. Wiesendanger. Muscle biopsies were performed in some of the author's patients but no other new pathological material is presented.


This new German textbook of neurology is a collaborative venture from the university department at Cologne. The presentation is practical and didactic, and written in a concise and straightforward manner. It avoids controversial issues and devotes no space to speculation. The orderly arrangement of the material makes it a convenient work or reference. The text is well produced and adequately illustrated.


Concise reports are here gathered together of recent Russian work in the field of 'higher nervous activity', in other words, of cerebral cortical function. The approach of almost all of the 40 communications is strictly Pavlovian, through conditioning techniques, and is likely to be of interest only to those western workers who are similarly orientated. The reports are brief, factual, and devoid of polemical material. The English version under review was produced by the Israeli Programme for Scientific Translation.


The interpretation and meaning of a dream are influenced by the personal and individual associations of the dreamer: in the case of the fairy tale these individual associations have been obliterated by repetition in the passage of time. Thus the fairy tale can be regarded as reflecting the shared aspirations of a people, even of mankind. Dr. Julius Heuscher's fascinating study is based on a phenomenological rather than a psychoanalytical approach, and shows how the fairy tale is concerned with spiritual values needed more than ever in our materialistic age. Even the evolution of the 'western' illustrates this need. The human search for a meaning to life is convincingly judged in this book to have a nobler basis than in 'the future of an illusion'.


The author discusses normal personality development and its disturbances in maturation along psychoanalytical lines, with modifications derived from his extensive personal experience. Case histories are given, for instance of Constance, aged 48: she developed an agitated psychotic depression, and was admitted to hospital, but 'hospitalization brought no improvement. Constance sat staring in front of her, silent, tearful and dejected, wringing her hands, rubbing her forehead, and picking at her skin. . . . To an experienced eye it was obvious that she was deeply preoccupied and in an emotional turmoil. . . . She demanded repeatedly, angrily, tormentingly, that she be brought to trial for her terrible crimes, that she be imprisoned for life, that she be beaten and thrown naked into the street. . . . Eventually she was transferred to a bleak public hospital which she herself called a prison. Here she managed to work through her depression, recover her composure and return to her previous work.'

Surely Freud, were he living today, would never allow this.


Most psychotherapists need a label. The principles of Professor Leonhard's 'individual therapy' were set out in a monograph some years ago. The present volume illustrates his theories in action, with sample case histories and a set of follow-up data. The critical reader may suspect that the treatment is not quite as individual as the author claims and that time will tarnish the statistics; but he cannot complain of being presented with inadequate information on which to base a judgment.

NOTICES

THALAMIC REGULATION OF SENSORMOTOR ACTIVITIES

A symposium on 'Thalamic Regulation of Sensormotor Activities' will be held at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, from 30 November to 2 December, 1964. This conference is the first of a series of symposia to be presented by the Parkinson's Disease Research and Information Center and is co-sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation. Information concerning this meeting may be obtained from the program co-director, Dr. Melvin D. Yahr, New York Neurological Institute, 710 West 168th Street, New York 32, New York.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ELECTROMYOGRAPHY AND ELECTRODIAGNOSIS

The annual meeting of the American Association of Electromyography and Electrodiagnosis will be held on Sunday 23 August 1964, at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts.

Please address all communications to: Max K. Newman, M.D., 16861 Wyoming Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48221.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Would intending authors kindly note that they are requested to put in their lists of references the full title of the paper quoted together with the numbers of the first and last pages. An example of how references should now be set out can be seen on the inside front cover under the general instructions to contributors.