Book reviews

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY OF THE LIMBS IN PARAPLEGIA
By L. S. Michaelis. (Pp. vii + 54, 30 figures. DM.12.)
Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1964.
This small book describes some of the operations used by
the author to correct contractures and other complications of paraplegia. For cervical cord lesions there is
sometimes an opportunity to improve function by tendon transplant, such as the tendon of a strong flexor carpi
radialis into that of the paralysed flexor digitorum.

AN INTRODUCTION TO NEUROSURGERY By W. Bryan
Jennett. (Pp. xiv + 326; 64 figures. 45s.) London:
Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1964.
English-speaking neurosurgeons should welcome Mr.
Jennett’s book for in a relatively short compass and at a
reasonable price it includes descriptions of most of the
pathology and methods of treatment encountered in a
neurosurgical department. This book should be found in
the library of every large general hospital, and should be
compulsory reading for junior staff when they join a
neurosurgical department. Naturally, not every neuro-
surgeon will agree with all Mr. Jennett has written and,
indeed, your reviewer disagrees with some points and
regrets one or two omissions. Nevertheless, this volume
provides a very good basis, with the help of which a
junior member of a neurosurgical team may be expected
to understand quickly the workings and the aims of his
department. This book will be comprehensible and valu-
able not only to the person who has already determined on
a career in neurosurgery, but also to those others who
venture into neurosurgery temporarily in the course of
their training for another specialty.
The book ends with two contributions from Mr. Robert
Tym. The first is a humane and sympathetic description of
neurosurgical methods for the treatment of pain; the
second is a brief outline of the aims and achievements of
stereotactic surgery.

A. JEFFERSON

SAMLUNG ZWANGLOSER ABHANDLUNGEN AUS DEM
GEBIETE DER PSYCHIATRIE UND NEUROLOGIE. Heft 26.
Stauungspapille Bei Nicht Tumorösen Hirnprozessen.
By Horst Albrecht. (Pp. 94; 35 figures. DM. 14.-.)
In the decade 1950-1960 16 patients were admitted to the
University Neurological Clinic in Greifswald with papil-
loedema which was conclusively shown not to be due to
a cerebral tumour. Dr. Albrecht reports these cases,
which were judged to be due to transient disturbances of
cerebral circulation, arterial hypertension, trauma,
inflammatory conditions, hypoparathyroidism, Paget’s
disease, and various other known causes of papilloedema.
His purpose is to drive home a simple diagnostic lesson,
rather than to say anything new.

DISORDERS OF LANGUAGE Ciba Foundation Symposium.
Edited by A. V. S. de Reuck and Maeve O’Connor.
(Pp. xii + 356; 35 figures. 50s.) London: J. & A.
Churchill Ltd. 1964.
This well-printed book contains the proceedings of a
Ciba symposium held in London in 1963 under the chair-
manship of Dr. Macdonald Critchley. There are papers by
experts in a wide variety of fields together with verba-
tim accounts of the discussions following them. Although
the papers contain little that is entirely new in the field,
they serve a useful purpose in drawing attention to the
great variety of work that is going on in the study of
language in different parts of the world. Bias is under-
standably on the side of medical disorders, but Goldman-
Eisler, Neff, and Ross give interesting reviews of how
language can be studied in other conditions.
The discussions are refreshingly alive and the reader
quickly, and probably erroneously, builds up pictures of
the personalities of the participants. The remarks range
from purely trite through critically reflective to basically
informative. Now and then speakers take the opportu-
nity of describing work in progress or recalling forgotten
surveys.
Gratitude is due to the editors and the participants
for providing references to all the work mentioned in the
discussions. It is not easy for a speaker to delve into his
memory and dig up the exact location of a recalled
remark, but it is probably from this bibliography that the
reader may gain most profit.

BASIC READINGS IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGY Edited by Robert
L. Isaacson. (Pp. xi + 429. 37s.) New York and
This paper-backed book assembles 16 important articles,
published between 1937 and 1959, concerned with relation-
ships between the central nervous system and behaviour.
The Editor tells us that these papers have been brought
together in order to provide the student with easy access
to some of the original landmarks in the field of physio-
logical psychology. For this reason some important work
which is readily available is not included.
As the Editor points out, the selection is also influenced
by his own special interests. These two constraints result
in a rather narrow spectrum. Nine papers are concerned
with the physiology of emotion or motivation, mostly
in relation to the limbic system, three with sensory
functions, two with conditioning, one with the mind-
brain problem, and one, rather inappropriately, with
metabolism. All of the experimental papers consist of
animal work. Work with humans is entirely neglected
and the only paper dealing with intellectual functions,
and then not primarily, is Kluver and Bucy’s discussion
of temporal lobe function.
If Lashley and Hebb had to be omitted because their
work is readily accessible elsewhere, then the balance
might have been restored by including some of the more
recent studies of cognitive organization such as the split brain work of Myers and Sperry, or one of Mishkin's or Chow's papers on selective cognitive deficits with focal neo-cortical lesions. Instead we have Papez's paper on emotion and MacLean's elaboration of it; Pribram and Kruger's 'Functions of the "Olfactory Brain"', and Stellar's 'Physiology of Motivation' (both published in the same year); Klüver and Bucy's classic and Shreiner and Kling's more recent study of the same type of behaviour with similar lesions, and two papers on electrophysiological concomitants of conditioning.

Other noteworthy papers are the famous ones of Moruzzi and Magoun on the reticular formation, of Olds and Milner on positive reinforcement from cerebral stimulation, of Hubel and Wiesel on receptive fields of single neurones in striate cortex, and of Bard and Mountcastle on fore-brain mechanisms in expression of rage. These papers are rightly called basic readings in neuropsychology and there is solid profit in this book for any neurologist or psychologist. But the bias towards motivation and the limbic system is very heavy and it should not be thought that this collection covers the field of neuropsychology in a representative fashion. References are given at the end of each paper but there is no index.

M. Piercy


This book gives a short account of the main forms of neurosis and psychosis. It mentions symptomatology, psychopathology, and treatment in each case. It is in general very psychoanalytically orientated, especially in its psychopathology. The plan of the book is to progress from the simple to the more complex so far as psychopathology is concerned. Chapters are included on organic brain syndromes, psychosomatic medicine, and psychiatry in general practice.

It claims to be completely up-to-date. However, a rather striking feature is the almost complete lack of any mention of the many new psychotropic drugs which are proving so useful at a symptomatic level, if no more, in the whole range of mental illness. Apart from this, for its size, the book is reasonably comprehensive. Its exposition is clear. As an introduction to the psychoanalytic approach to general psychiatry it can be recommended. This third edition since 1950 is evidence of its continuing popularity.


The growing rapprochement between psychiatry and public health has been one of the most encouraging post-war medical developments. Though prevention may be their ultimate aim the current opinion of most realistic workers confronted by our present state of knowledge is contained in the title of an article by a Scottish professor of psychological medicine: 'Preventive psychiatry—is there such a thing?' This book, the first of a trilogy, arrives at a more positive point of view by dint of a combination of theory, generalization, anecdote, enthusiasm, and an occasional fact. According to the Foreword by the former director of the National Institute of Mental Health, it '...is not only a primer for the community mental health worker—it is a Bible'. Bibles, it may be recalled, are written for the believer; they can be designed to be read as literature but never as science.


Perhaps it is true, as the editors of this book imply in their introduction, that the great interest taken in the study of personality in the United States is related to the fact that, unlike its European counterpart, American psychology is '. . .dedicated to the belief in change both temporary and enduring through environmental influences. One's personality, according to this view, is mainly a collecting, sorting, storage, and dispensing centre for the social, educational, and interpersonal experiences'. The reviews in this volume collect, sort, store, and dispense a wide range of information on several important theories of personality and related clinical and experimental studies. The general standard of presentation is never less than competent. Most of the authors are psychologists in the greater Chicago area; it may be doubted whether the second city of any other country could do as well.

NOTICES

DANISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

An international symposium has been arranged by the Danish Society for the History of Medicine to be held in connection with the International Congress of Neurosurgery in Copenhagen in August 1965. The subject will be Niccolaus Steno and brain research in the seventeenth century. Further particulars may be obtained from Dr. Egill Snorrason, Drosselvej 31, Copenhagen F, Denmark.

INTERNATIONAL NEUROCHEMICAL CONFERENCE

An international neurochemical conference under the auspices of the Neurochemical Commission of the World Federation of Neurology and entitled 'Variation in the chemical composition of the nervous system as determined by developmental and genetic factors', will take place in Oxford from 25 to 30 July 1965. Further information is available from the National Secretary, Dr. G. B. Ansell, Department of Experimental Neuropharmacology, The Medical School, Birmingham, 15, England.
Book reviews

M. Piercy

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