brain. The way in which this computer may work is illustrated largely by reference to the author's outstanding work upon the octopus. To this is added accounts of the structural characteristics of the human brain, though here the gaps in our knowledge are more apparent than the certainties we have.

It is a fascinating book, the reaction to which will be largely determined by temperament. Readers will either be inspired by the vision that we may soon understand the nature of man or depressed by the seemingly infinite gap between hypothesis and fact in our approach to this understanding.


This second edition contains new information about the development of myelin, vascular diseases, encephalitis, demyelinating diseases, paralysis agitans, diseases of muscle, and cerebral tumours. The book's 311 photographs and diagrams are very well selected and excellently reproduced. There is no doubt that this atlas will be very helpful to people beginning the study of neuropathology and have no access to a comprehensive collection of slides or specimens.

Professor Blackwood has resisted the temptation to make too detailed a comment on the various diseases illustrated, and sometimes he may have gone too far in simplifying matters for his readers. No harm would be done to the next edition if some of the blank spaces on these printed pages were to be at least partially filled by a little more description of the essential features of the conditions mentioned, and certainly the student would be better orientated in his later reading.


This book derives from eight lectures given to the first International Summer School of Brain Research at the Royal Academy of Science, Amsterdam, in July 1963. Each lecture is an authoritative review and personal account of recent experimental work by renowned experts in their own field. The trophic properties of the neurone are dealt with by M. Singer, and the importance of neurotrophic processes in regeneration by E. Gutmann and H. A. L. Trampusch. Experiments with a factor promoting regeneration of spinal neurones are described by D. Scott and C. N. Liu. Axoplasmic streaming is discussed by L. Lubitsch and the proximodistal movement of phospholipids by N. Miani.

Some ultramicroscopical findings in experimental segmental demyelination and in myelin regeneration in peripheral nerve are very beautifully described and illustrated by H. de F. Webster. The development, degeneration, and regeneration of receptor organs are described by J. Zelinka. There is a verbatim report of the discussion that took place at the end of each paper, which is relatively short and to the point.

In common with the other volumes of 'Progress in Brain Research', this volume is beautifully produced, and the illustrations, many photomicrographs and ultraphotomicrographs are superbly reproduced.

This is a very important book, of great interest to the neurologist and physiologist, dealing mainly with the anatomy and physiology of neuronal regeneration: a basis for the recovery of function following disease of the nervous system.

**SCINTILLATION SCANNING IN CLINICAL MEDICINE** Edited by James L. Quinn. (Pp. 278; illustrated. 80s. 6d.) Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders and Co. 1964.

This book is based on a symposium held in 1964 in North Carolina. It deals with scintillation counting in clinical medicine as a whole, and there are sections devoted to the basic principles of scanning and to the methods and usefulness of scanning particular organs. The section devoted to neurology consists of two chapters. One reviews experience at the Johns Hopkins Hospital of 1,000 consecutive patients examined to demonstrate or exclude the presence of an intracranial tumour, and the other reports a panel discussion by doctors from five centres. The style is clear and there are many excellent reproductions of scans and radiographs. The rival merits of 131I albumin and of 203Hg chloromerodrin are discussed, and it is argued that future improvements will come with the use of radioactive material with a lower physical or biological half-life so that larger doses may be given. Scanning detects over 70% of tumours, and very rarely indicates an abnormality where none is present. It is said to be particularly reliable in detecting meningioma and fast growing glioma and is regarded as a valuable screening procedure for subjects whose clinical states do not warrant angiography or air-encephalography. Where scanning and angiography are both performed the accuracy of diagnosis is greater than with either alone. It is also reported that non-tumorous lesions, such as subdural haematoma, cerebral contusion and, for one to two days, the effect of cerebral angiography, are detectable. Though this book is not primarily neurological, neurologists interested in the clinical value of scanning will read it with profit.


In this book the author discusses modern methods for the examination of cerebrospinal fluid proteins. An evaluation is made of the techniques of paper electrophoresis, agar gel electrophoresis, and immunoelectrophoresis; the limitations and advantages of each of these for the study of cerebrospinal fluid are carefully considered. The results of examinations of fluids from a large series of human pathological conditions by these methods are presented and discussed, with references to other data in the literature. A chapter on the examination of cerebrospinal fluid from animals with neurological diseases (rida, visna, and swayback in sheep), and one dealing with agar gel electrophoresis of soluble proteins from human cerebral tissue are also included.
The book is not easy to read and the presentation of results and their discussion is somewhat repetitive. The author and his co-workers have clearly carried out an immense amount of work with the aim of establishing the value of aga gel electrophoresis in clinical neurology. It is difficult, however, to assess the extent to which this aim has been achieved; the author himself, in his concluding chapter, implies that, in view of the effort involved, progress appears to be rather slight, and few definite solutions of the problems posed have been reached. Nevertheless, those interested in the possibilities of this approach to neurological problems will undoubtedly find the book a useful source of data and references.


This book opens with a lucid account of the essential anatomy and physiology of paraplegia. This has been very well done as it combines the technical explanations which make it of interest to the doctor, with translations of these into simple terms for the patient and his friends. This has been done without appearing to insult the intelligence of the former or talk down to the latter and has been achieved with an easy style of writing.

The book covers all the practical information required by those who have to care for a patient with paraplegia right from the moment of injury to their return to work. The chapter on sexual function is especially valuable as this is a subject about which there is much misunderstanding and mythology. There is also a useful list of appliance centres and other addresses and is in all an excellent production. The only criticism I would make is that it is worthy of better illustrations than it has been given. This book will be of great value to all who may have a paraplegic patient under their care.

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This book is not, as its title implies, a systematic account of neurological mechanisms. Such anatomical, physiological, and pathological material as it contains is simply there to support an account of the author's own research and therapeutic activity at the Department of Audiology and Education of the Deaf, at the University of Manchester. Therefore, the major part of the contents is concerned to describe the considerable variety of diagnostic and therapeutic methods in use at that institution. These include a number of novel approaches, such as behaviourist (sic) tests of hearing, and applications of electroencephalographic and galvanic skin response recording to audiometric testing. Much space is given to case reports and the book is fully illustrated with photographs of test procedures.

The work as a whole suffers from a rather sketchy and disjointed style of presentation and from some failure to provide a reasonably systematic and considered account of techniques and methods pursued, and results obtained, in centres other than the Manchester department. As an account of the latter, however, it may be found useful and stimulating.


Thirty-three psychiatrists met at Bad Kruznach last year to discuss the side effects and the failures of drug treatment in psychiatry. As Professor Kranz explains in his introductory address, this is now as important and necessary a task as appraisal of the therapeutic value of drugs. Alteration of the conditions of a patient's mental activity, severe biochemical changes, threats to life, and tragedies like teratogenesis are possible consequences of drug treatment that call insistently for study. The contributors to this symposium do not gloss over the risks and mishaps; their honest and well-documented papers are worth dozens of articles reporting that such and such a judicious combination of drugs will do wonders. Twenty-six detailed reports and the ensuing discussions do not lend themselves to summary description, they cover a wide field, and their authors are such well-known authorities as Selbach, Hippius, and Huber. It is greatly to be regretted that this informative book has not been provided with an index.


This primer sets out in very concise form the drugs to be used in various neurological and psychiatric emergencies, the appropriate dosage and the contraindications. Allowing for the bias inevitable in a field so beset with unconfirmed assertions, the recommendations do not differ appreciably from current practice in Great Britain. Occasionally, however, the reader is sharply reminded of divergencies, for example, when he reads Dr. Kienle's bald pronouncement that E.C.T. is only exceptionally necessary in the treatment of mental illness.


This book is beautifully produced, and faithfully describes the situation, practice, and working conditions of German mental hospitals. It also has much information about mental hospitals in other countries, but if the passages dealing with Great Britain are typical, the information is second or third hand, sometimes inexact, and partly out-of-date. The study was initiated as a report for the German Psychiatric Association on the development and needs of the psychiatric hospitals of that country, but Professor Panse found it rapidly expanding into a monograph which became this stout volume. It contains a vast amount of practical guidance and description, is enlightened in many of its suggestions, and can best be described as a thorough compendium of administrative psychiatry based on a minimum of theory and a proper concern with the importance of good planning, good care of patients, and good buildings.
Book reviews

John Marshall

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