Comparable cases could then only be detected by detailed individual study, as statistical analyses of extensive clinical material would be likely to submerge the rare but significant case.

The selectivity of impairment of function demonstrated here must be based on a comparable anatomical differentiation of the neural structures implicated. While information available about the present case permits no speculations in terms of the precise anatomy of the relevant cortical locus, the findings would best be explained on models of cerebral functioning which incorporate the occurrence of certain transformations along anatomically separate and distinctive lines of communication, with the possibility of their selective disconnexion by naturally occurring disease.

**SUMMARY**

A patient with a moderate degree of expressive dysphasia had disproportionate difficulty in oral spelling and in the recognition of words spelled out to him. Transformations between digit sequences and the names of the composite numbers they constitute were similarly affected. The selective defect was limited to the auditory channel. When the visual-kinesthetic channel was introduced by presenting the material in writing, or permitting a written response, the deficit was overcome, and even making appropriate writing movements with the right hand substantially improved performance.

The findings suggest that auditory letter-word and digit-composite number transformations proceed along distinct central lines of communication which may be selectively disconnected by naturally occurring disease.

We are most grateful to Dr. John Marshall for giving us permission to study and report this case.

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**The October 1965 Issue**

**THE OCTOBER 1965 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS**

- Effects of carotid lIGATION on the size of internal carotid aneurysms  
  J. R. GIBBS
- Curvature of the spine in post-encephalitic Parkinsonism  
  J. PURDON MARTIN
- Parkinsonism associated with laryngeal spasm  
  C. J. VAS, MAURICE PARSONAGE, AND OLIVER C. LORD
- Clinical trial with a beta-receptor antagonist (propranolol) in Parkinsonism  
  R. R. STRANG
- Studies in the development and breakdown of the use of names. Part IV *The effects of word frequency*  
  GERARD ROCHFORD AND MOYRA WILLIAMS
- Comparative bioassay of chlordiazepoxide and amylobarbitone sodium therapies in patients with anxiety states using physiological and clinical measures  
  M. H. LADER and LORNA WING
- Cyanide metabolism and vitamin B₁₄ in multiple sclerosis  
  D. M. MATTHEWS, J. WILSON, and K. J. ZILKHA
- Autoantibodies found after thymectomy in a patient later developing myasthenia gravis  
  JOHN H. KERR, CARLOS G. DURAN, HELEN THOMAS, and RALPH WRIGHT
- Central core disease of muscle with focal wasting  
  VICTOR DUBOWITZ and MARGARET PLATTS
- Supratentorial arachnoid cyst associated with hydrocephalus  
  J. GRUSZKIEWICZ and E. PEYSER
- Intracerebellar haematoma  
  HUGH ARONSAN, SHERIF SHAFEY, and FREDDIE GARGANO
- Cysticercosis of the dorsal cord  
  K. T. HESKETH
- Effect of alterations in the arterial carbon dioxide tension on the blood flow through the cerebral cortex at normal and low arterial blood pressures  
  A. MURRA HARP, and H. J. GLASS
- A case of visual disorientation  
  R. B. GODWIN-AUSTEN
- Proceedings of the 71st meeting of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons
- Book reviews

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.I., price 18s. 6d.
CANINE BEHAVIOUR By M. W. Fox. (Pp. 137; illustrated. $6.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964. This is an entertaining and educative little book which approaches the problem of animal behaviour from an unusually rounded and common sense view. The behaviour problems of the domestic animal are obviously specialized. This book examines their basic neurophysiological and psychological background in a reasonably scientific manner, as well as the particular factors, environmental and other, which come from domestication. It will be of value to veterinary students as well as to those interested in animal behaviour and to dog owners in general.

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS ON THE AETIOLOGY OF MYELOPATHY By T. Lehoczky, J. Sós, and M. Halasy. (Pp. 218; 235 illustrations. 50s.) Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó. 1964. This book records a wealth of experimental work done by the authors at the Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, over a period of 10 years. These workers, curious about the pathogenesis of obscure human myelopathies, have subjected albino rats to a variety of toxic and metabolic processes designed to injure the spinal cord. Amongst these were resections of gastric mucosa,avitaminoses of various types, and intoxications by alcohol, carbon tetrachloride, phosphorus, triorthocresyl phosphate, and the seeds of Lathyrus odoratus. Diabetes was produced by alloxan and by diethion and with thyroxin a hyperthyroid state was maintained. In all these experiments the authors claim to have caused a myelopathy attributable to the regime of their experiment. Their results were always evaluated histologically and in some cases no abnormal clinical state was apparent in the animal. The histological findings were usually a spongy degeneration of white matter often combined with neuronal degeneration. The authors have taken pains to record control observations on animals kept under parallel conditions and have also discussed the difficult problem of artefact in their microscopical preparations. Many criticisms on this score have been allayed by the profuse illustrations which, although often of poor quality, amply substantiate the authors' descriptions.

This book will be of interest mainly to experimental workers in this field of research who will appreciate the references given at the end of each chapter.

J. TREVOR HUGHES

PROBLEMS OF PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY Edited by L. L. Rokhlin. (Pp. 330; illustrated. 108s.) Israel Program for Scientific Translations. London: Oldbourne Press. 1965. This book reports the results from a number of centres in the U.S.S.R. of the drug treatment of schizophrenia, affective disorders and, much more briefly, of alcoholism and behaviour disorders in children and adults. It is a useful compilation of information. Results do not greatly differ from those obtained in clinics in this country. There is a short review of the general chemical structure of the drugs used and the chemical similarities between some disparate groups is noted. There is also a useful summary of dosages, indications, complications, and side effects of the various groups. The reproduction of figures, both pictures and E.E.G. tracings, is rather blurred. The English translation is intelligible and grammatical with occasional oddities of phrasing. References are given separately to Russian literature and to that in other languages. The book is a useful short description of the kind of psychopharmacology that is practised in the U.S.S.R.

NEUROLOGY FOR NURSES By E. M. Jacobs and P. M. Denault. (Pp. ix + 195; 40 figures. $9.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964. This well-illustrated and well-produced book is designed to provide nurses with a basic knowledge of neurology and instruction in the special nursing techniques required in order to understand and care for neurological patients. The description of the diseases is adequate though there are many definitions which might have been improved. Examples are clonus, which is described as a series of jerking motions, and receptive aphasia, which is termed a condition in which a patient 'can speak but in an unintelligible manner'.

The description of the nursing procedures is not sufficiently detailed to be an adequate guide and would require to be supplemented by a great deal of personal instruction. Significant omissions occur, as in the failure to stress the importance of the nurse noting the site of initial disturbance when observing a fit. Overall, the book cannot be considered as an outstanding example of this type of work.

STRONG AND ELWIN'S HUMAN NEUROANATOMY, 5th ed. Edited by R. C. Truex and M. B. Carpenter. (Pp. xv + 591; illustrated. 106s.) Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company. 1964. This is an excellent textbook. The new edition differs from the last mainly in the illustrations, many of which are extremely helpful in conveying three-dimensional images. The chapter on embryology has been rewritten. Much recent material has been added, and stress is laid on physiological correlations. Some discredited myths remain in print. It is easier, it seems, to acquire new furniture than to turn out the lumber-room.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF NEUROSURGERY

The third European Congress of Neurosurgery will take place in Madrid from 23 to 26 April, 1967. It has been organized by the Belgian, Dutch, and Portuguese-Spanish Societies of Neurosurgery and will chiefly be concerned with disorders of the cerebral circulation. Further information from the President, Dr. S. Obrador, Eduardo Dato 23, Madrid 10.

SPANISH-PORTUGUESE SOCIETY OF NEUROSURGERY

The XVIII Meeting of the Spanish-Portuguese Society of Neurosurgery will take place in Salamanca from 20 to 22 May 1966. Foreign guests are welcome. For information write to the Secretary, Dr. S. Obrador, Eduardo Dato 23, Madrid 10, Spain.
Index

Cowan, W. M. *See also Carman, J. B., Cowan, W. M., Powell, T. P. S., and Webster, K. E.*

Cranial nerve dysfunction, multiple, relation to, of Guillain-Barré syndrome, 115

Craniorhachyngioma, radioactive gold in treatment of, 30

Creutzfeld-Jakob disease, 350

Cerebral paresis and homolateral ataxia: a vascular syndrome, 48

Cryogenic lesions in stereotactic surgery, 184

Cummings, J. N. *See Monsen, G., and Cummings, J. N.*

Cyanoide metabolism and vitamin B12 in multiple sclerosis, 426

Cyst, supratentorial arachnoid, associated with hydrocephalus, 438

Cystic cerebellar tumours, 461

Cysticercosis of dorsal cord, 445

Cysts, colloid, of third ventricle, 461

Danish Society for the History of Medicine: International Symposium on Nicolaus Steno, 290


De Gail, P. *See Lancel, J. W., and De Gail, P.*

Delorge, F. B. *See Canellas, H. M., Marques de Assis, L., and De Jorghe, F. B.*

Denyer, W. : Aberrant peripheral nerve fibres in the medulla oblongata of man, 121

Denervation and reinnervation, experimental, changes in enzyme histochemistry of skeletal muscle during, 99

–, effect of, on resting membrane potential of healthy and dystrophic muscle, 525

Detre, T. *See Goff, G. D., Rosner, B. S., Detre, T., and Kennard, D.*

Diamantopoulos, E., and Gassel, M. M.: Electrically induced monosynaptic reflexes in man, 496

Dick, G., McAlister, J. J., McKown F., and Campbell, A. M. G.: Multiple sclerosis and scrapie, 560

Diencephalic lesions, spastic disturbances in, 463

Dolley, C. T., Mailer, C. M., and Hodge, J. V.: Studies by fluorescence photography of papillae in malignant hypertension, 241

Dorsal cord, cysticercosis of, 445

Downman, C. B. B. *See Prout, B. J., Coote, J. H., and Downman, C. B. B.*

Dubowitz, V. : Enzyme histochemistry of skeletal muscle, I. Developing animal muscle, 516

–, II. Developing human muscle, 519

–, and Platts, M.: Central core disease of muscle with focal wasting, 432

Duchenne dystrophy, serum enzyme components in early and late reflex parts, 469

–, II. Loss of significance of stimulus site, 476

Druszkiewicz, J., and Pfeffer, E.: Supratentorial arachnoidal cyst associated with hydrocephalus, 438

Guillain-Barré syndrome, relation of multiple cranial nerve dysfunction to, 115

Guthkelch, J.: Pathological plantar response, I. Flexor and extensor components in early and late reflex parts, 469

Gutierrez-Mahoney, C. G. de: Palencephalography, 460

H wave, studies in man and cat of significance of, 201

Haematoxia, intracerebellar, 442

Haemophilia, head injury and, 184

Hand muscles, intrinsic, central responses to electrical activation of peripheral nerves supplying, 482

Handa, J. *See Ishikawa, S., Handa, J., Meyer, J. S., and Huber, P.*


Harper, A. M., and Glash H. I.: Effect of alterations in the arterial carbon dioxide tension on the blood flow through the cerebral cortex at normal and low arterial blood pressures, 449

Hasanen, M. *See Abd el Naby, S., and Hassanen, M.*


Hayman, R. B. *See Gerstl, B., Malamud, N., Hayman, R. B., and Bond, P. R.*

Head injury and haemophilia, 184

Hemi-chorea, involuntary movements following stereotropic operations for Parkinsonism, with special reference to, 291

Hesketh, K. T.: Cysticercosis of the dorsal cord, 445

Hodge, J. V. *See Dolly, C. T., Mailer, C. M., and Hodge, J. V.*

Huber, P. *See Ishikawa, S., Handa, J., Meyer, J. S., and Huber, P.*

Hughes, R.: Involuntary movements following stereotropic operations for Parkinsonism with special reference to hemic-hoera (ballismus), 291

Hydrocephalus, supratentorial arachnoidal cyst associated with, 438

Hypertension, malignant, studies by fluorescence photography of papillae in, 241

Hyperventilation, cerebral tumour presenting with, 317

Ibrahim, M. Z. M., Morgan, R. S., and Adams, C. W. M.: Histochemistry of the neuroglia and myelin in experimental cerebral infarction, 91

Immunoglobulin G from cerebrospinal fluid, isolation and partial characterization of, 552

Gamma globulin in cerebrospinal fluid, comparison of immunological specificity of, in normal and multiple sclerosis subjects, 61

Gardner, W. J.: Hydrodynamical mechanism of syringomyelia: its relationship to myelocle, 247

Gargano, P. *See Aronson, H., Shaffey, S., and Gargano, P.*

Gassel, M. M. *See Diamantopoulos, E., and Gassel, M. M.*

Gasserian injection, alcoholic, precise, for tic douloureux, 65

Genetic linkage in multiple sclerosis, 218

Gerstl, B., Malamud, N., Hayman, R. B., and Bond, P. R.: Morphological and neurochemical study of Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease, 640

Gibbs, J. R.: Effects of carotid ligation on the size of internal carotid aneurysms, 383


–, *See also Fullerton, P. M., and Gilliat, R. W.*

Glass, H. I. *See Harper, A. M., and Glass, H. I.*

Glicomes, pedunculated, in lateral ventricle, 548

Globulin, gamma, in cerebrospinal fluid, comparison of immunological specificity of, in normal and multiple sclerosis subjects, 61

Goddard, M. D., and Reid, J. D.: Movements induced by straight leg raising in the lumbo-sacral roots, nerves and plexus, and in the intrapelvic section of the sciatic nerve, 12

Godwin-Austen, R. B.: A case of visual disorientation, 453


Gold, radioactive, in treatment of craniorhachyngioma, 30


Green, B.: Pathological plantar response, I. Flexor and extensor components in early and late reflex parts, 469

–, II. Loss of significance of stimulus site, 476

Gubekeich, A. N.: A modern view of the management of spina bifida cystica, 185

Gutierrez-Mahoney, C. G. de: Palencephalography, 460

H wave, studies in man and cat of significance of, 201

Haematoxia, intracerebellar, 442

Haemophilia, head injury and, 184

Hand muscles, intrinsic, central responses to electrical activation of peripheral nerves supplying, 482

Handa, J. *See Ishikawa, S., Handa, J., Meyer, J. S., and Huber, P.*


Harper, A. M., and Glass, H. I.: Effect of alterations in the arterial carbon dioxide tension on the blood flow through the cerebral cortex at normal and low arterial blood pressures, 449

Hassanen, M. *See Abd el Naby, S., and Hassanen, M.*


Hayman, R. B. *See Gerstl, B., Malamud, N., Hayman, R. B., and Bond, P. R.*

Head injury and haemophilia, 184

Hemi-chorea, involuntary movements following stereotropic operations for Parkinsonism, with special reference to, 291

Hesketh, K. T.: Cysticercosis of the dorsal cord, 445

Hodge, J. V. *See Dolly, C. T., Mailer, C. M., and Hodge, J. V.*

Huber, P. *See Ishikawa, S., Handa, J., Meyer, J. S., and Huber, P.*

Hughes, R.: Involuntary movements following stereotropic operations for Parkinsonism with special reference to hemic-hoera (ballismus), 291

Hydrocephalus, supratentorial arachnoidal cyst associated with, 438

Hypertension, malignant, studies by fluorescence photography of papillae in, 241

Hyperventilation, cerebral tumour presenting with, 317

Ibrahim, M. Z. M., Morgan, R. S., and Adams, C. W. M.: Histochemistry of the neuroglia and myelin in experimental cerebral infarction, 91

Immunoglobulin G from cerebrospinal fluid, isolation and partial characterization of, 552
Index

International Neurochemical Conference, 290
Intervertebral discs, thoracic, neurological manifestations of, 460
Intracerebellar haematoma, 442
Intracranial aneurysms, assessment of treatment of, 459
- arterial occlusion, electromagnetic flowmeter study of, in, monkey, 124
- epidermoid cyst, squamous cell carcinoma developing in, 276
- vascular anomalies, total circulatory arrest in treatment of, 183
Intraventricular therapy, sedative, 461
Ischaemic attacks, transient, angiographic investigation of patients with, 533
ISHIKAWA, S., HANDA, J., MEYER, J. S., and HUBER, P.: Haemodynamics of the circle of Willis and the leptomeningeal anastomoses: an electromagnetic flowmeter study of intracranial arterial occlusion in the monkey, 124
Isotopes, use of, in hydrocephalus, 186
JACOB, H.: Myoclonus and ataxia occurring in a family, 272
JACZ, K.: See MUNGEROVE, G., JACZ, K., KUZMA, I., BABAUKOVA, O., and KALAFUT, F.
JOYNT, R. J., and PERRET, G. E.: Familial meningoimias, 163
KALAFUT, F. See MUNGEROVE, G., JACZ, K., KUZMA, I., BABAUKOVA, O., and KALAFUT, F.
KENNARD, D. See GOFF, G. D., ROSNER, B. S., DETRE, T., and KENNARD, D.
KERR, J. H., DURAN, C. G., THOMAS, H., and WRIGHT, R.: Autoantibodies found after thymectomy in a patient later developing myasthenia gravis, 420
KINSBOURNE, M., AND WARRINGTON, E. K.: A case showing selectively impaired oral spelling, 563
KNIGHT, G.: Stereotactic tractotomy in the surgical treatment of mental illness, 183
KUNC, Z.: Possibility of surgery in arteriovenous malformations in the anatomically important and dangerous regions of the brain, 183
KUNICKI, A.: Pedunculated gliomas in the lateral ventricle, 548
KURZE, T. L. See RAND, R. W., and KURZE, T. L.
KUZMA, I. See MUNGEROVE, G., JACZ, K., KUZMA, I., BABAUKOVA, O., and KALAFUT, F.
Kyphoscoliosis with paraplegia, operative treatment of, 185
LADER, M. H., and WONG, L.: Comparative bioassay of chloridiazepoxide and amylbarbitone sodium therapies in patients with anxiety states using physiological and clinical measures, 414
- See also WONG, L. and LADER, M. H.
LANE, J. W., and DE GAIL, P.: Spread of phasic muscle reflexes in normal and spastic subjects, 328
LANE, L. S., and LASZLO, G.: Cerebral tumour presenting with hyperventilation, 317
Laryngeal spasm, Parkinsonism associated with, 401
LASZLO, G. See LANGE, L. S., and LASZLO, G.
Leg raising, straight, movements induced by, in lumbo-sacral roots, nerves and plexus, and in intrapelvic section of sacial nerve, 12
LENNAN, J. A. B.: Effect of denervation on the resting membrane potential of healthy and dystrophic muscle, 525
Leptomeningeal anastomoses, haemodynamics of circle of Willis and, in, monkey, 124
Leucoencephalopathy, progressive multifocal, 260
LEWIN, E. See STEPHENS, J., and LEWIN, E.
LINK, H.: Isolation and partial characterization of 'trace' proteins and immunoglobulin G from cerebrospinal fluid, 552
LORD, O. C. See VAS, C. J., PARSONAGE, M., and LORD, O. C.
Lumbar root and sheath lesions, lower, 463
Lumbo-sacral roots, nerves and plexus, movements induced by straight leg raising in, 12
MCALISTER, J. J. See DICK, G., McALISTER, J. J., MCKEOWN, F., and CAMPBELL, A. M. G.
MCCORMICK, W. F. See PITNER, S. E., EDWARDS, J. E., and MCCORMICK, W. F.
MCKEOWN, F. See DICK, G., McALISTER, J. J., MCKEOWN, F., and CAMPBELL, A. M. G.
MICKISOCK, W.: Congenital cysts of the third ventricle, 461
Magnesium metabolism, disorders of, in, epilepsy, 378
MAILER, C. M. See DOLLY, C. T., MAILER, C. M., and HODGE, J. V.
MALAMUD, N. See GERSHTL, B., MALAMUD, N., HAYMAN, R. B., and BOND, P. R.
Manganese poisoning, chronic, neuropsychiatric manifestations of, 282
MARQUES DE ASSIS, L. See CANELAS, H. M., MARQUES DE ASSIS, L., and DE JORGE, F. B.
MARTIN, J. P.: Curvature of the spine in post-encephalitic Parkinsonism, 395
MARTIN, L. See HAWKINS, T. D., and MARTIN, L.
MAYER, H.: See GILLIATT, R. W., and MELLICK, R. S.
MELVILLE, I. D. See GILLIATT, R. W., MELVILLE, I. D., VELATE, A. S., and WILLISON, R. G.
Meningeal artery, middle, aneurysms of, 175
Meningioma, metastasizing, case of, 159
Meningiomas, familial, 163
Mental illness, stereotactic tractotomy in surgical treatment of, 304
MEYER, J. S. See ISIKAWA, S., HANDA, J., MEYER, J. S., and HUBER, P.
MILLER, H. See POSKANZER, D. C., SCAPARIA, K., BRACK, R. A., and MILLER, H.
Moebius syndrome, pathology of, 362
Monosynaptic reflexes, electrically induced, 496
MONSEU, G., and CUMINGS, J. N.: Polycrylamide disc electrophoresis of the proteins of cerebral spinal fluid and brain, 56
MORGAN, R. S. See IBRAHIM, M. Z. M., MORGAN, R. S., and ADAMS, C. W. M.
Motor nerve fibres, axon reflexes in, 1
Movements, involuntary, following stereotactic operations for Parkinsonism with special reference to hemi-chorea, 291
MUNGEROVE, G., JACZ, K., KUZMA, I., BABAUKOVA, O., and KALAFUT, F.: Experiences with malignant brain tumours in tissue culture, 185
MUNSAAT, T. L., and BARNES, J. E.: Relation of multiple cranial nerve dysfunction to the Guillain-Barré syndrome, 115
Muscle, central core disease of, with focal wasting, 432
- healthy and dystrophic, effect of denervation on resting membrane potential of, 525
- reflexes, phasic, spread of, in normal and spastic subjects, 328
- skeletal, enzyme histochemistry of, 516, 519
- - - - - - changes in, during experimental denervation and reinnervation, 99
Muscles, hand, intrinsic, central responses to electrical activation of peripheral nerves supplying, 482
Muscular disorders, disturbances of combustion processes in, 19
Myasthenia gravis, autoantibodies after thymectomy in patient later developing, 429
MYELIN, histochimistry of, in experimental cerebral oedema, 91
Myelolysis, central pontine, in 7-year-old boy, 39
Myeloleucia, hydrodynamic mechanism of syringomyelia: relationship to, 247
Myoclonus and ataxia occurring in family, 272
Myopathy, hereditary, electroencephalographic studies in, 109
Names, use of, development and breakdown of: effects of word frequency, 404
NATHAN, P. See ANDREW, J., and NATHAN, P.
Nerve action potentials, normal, study of, using averaging technique (barrier grid storage tube), 191
- antigens, central and peripheral, antibody response to, in rat and guinea-pig, 179
- fibres, peripheral, aberrant, in medulla oblongata, 121
- lesions, peripheral, associated with acute intermittent porphyria, nature of, 320
Nerves, peripheral, supplying intrinsic hand muscles, central responses to electrical activation of, 482
Neurogenic system, sarcoidosis of 23
Neurochemical Conference, International, 290
Neuroglia, histochemistry of, in experimental cerebral oedema, 91
Neurological Surgeons, Congress of, 90
Neuropsychiatric manifestations of chronic manganese poisoning, 282
Neurosurgery, Soviet, 465
NEBOŽ-DOBROZ, L.: Disturbances of the combustion processes in muscular disorders, 19
Index

SANDERS, H.: Sedative intraventricular therapy, 461
Ocular bobbing, 375
OPPENHEIMER, D. R. See BROWNE, B., and OPPENHEIMER, D. R.
OSLER, L. D., and FUSILLO, M. G.: A peculiar type of post-concussive "brain knot", 344
OSSELTON, J. W. See BARWICK, D. D., Osselton, J. W., and WALTON, J. N.

Palencephalography, 460
Papilloedema in malignant hypertension, studies by fluorescence photography of, 241
Paraplegia, operative treatment of kyphoscoliosis with, 185
Paresis, crural, homolateral ataxia and: a vascular syndrome, 48
Parkinsonism associated with laryngeal spasm, 401
—, clinical trial with beta-receptor antagonist (propranolol) in, 404
—, involuntary movements following stereotactic operations for, with special reference to hemi-chorea, 291
—, post-encephalitic, curvature of spine in, 395

PARSONAGE, M. See VAS, C. J., PARSONAGE, M., and LORD, O. C.
Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease, morphological and neurochemical study of, 540
PERL, T. See ECKER, A., and PERL, T.
PERRET, G. E. See JOYNT, R. J., and PERRET, G. E.
PETR, R. See GRUZKIEWICZ, J., and PEYER, E.
Phenylethionuria presenting intermittent progressive course, 165
PITNER, S. E., EDWARDS, J. F., and MCCORMICK, W. F.: Observations on the pathlogy of the Moebius syndrome, 362
Plantar response, pathological, 460, 476
PLATTS, M. See DUBOWITZ, V., and PLATTS, M.
Polioencephalopathy, subacute presenile, ataxic form of (Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease), 350
Polycyramidase disc electrophoresis of proteins of cerebrospinal fluid and brain, 56
Pontine myelolysis, central, in 7-year-old boy, 39
Porphyria, acute intermittent, nature of peripheral nerve lesions associated with, 320
POTTER, J. M.: Head injury and haemophilia, 184
POWELL, T. P. S. See CARMAN, J. B., COWAN, W. M., POWELL, T. P. S., and WEBSTER, K. E.
—, See COWAN, W. M., RAISSON, G., and POWELL, T. P. S.
Propranolol, clinical trial with, in Parkinsonism, 404
Proteins of cerebrospinal fluid and brain, polycyramidase disc electrophoresis of, 56
—, "trace", from cerebrospinal fluid, isolation and partial characterization of, 552
RAISSON, G. See COWAN, W. M., RAISSON, G., and POWELL, T. P. S.
RAND, R. W., and KURZE, T. L.: Facial nerve preservation by posterior fossa transcranial microdissection in total removal of acoustic tumours, 311
Reflexes, monosynaptic, electrically induced, 496
—, muscle, phasic, spread of, in normal and spastic subjects, 328
REID, J. D. See GOODARD, M. D., and REID, J. D.
REINMUTH, O. M. See BETETA, E., SCHEINBERG, P., REINMUTH, O. M., SHAFEY, S., and SHIMOJOY, S.
RICHARDS, D. See BOND, W. H., RICHARDS, D., and TURNER, E.
RICHARDSON, A.: Basilar-vertebral aneurysms, 460
ROSEN, B. S. See COFT, G. D., ROSEN, B. S., DETRE, T., and KENNARD, D.
Sacral root and sheath lesions, 463
SANDBANK, U. See BECHARD, M., BORNESTEIN, B., ELIAN, M., and SANDBANK, U.
SANDERS, H. See BAKER, R. W. R., SANDERS, H., THOMPSON, R. H. S., and ZILKHA, K. J.
Sarcoidosis of nervous system, 23
Scandinavian Neurosurgical Society, 190
SCHAPIRA, K. See POSKANZER, D. C., SCHAPIRA, K., BRACK, R. A., and MILLER, H.
SCHEINBERG, P. See BETETA, E., SCHEINBERG, P., REINMUTH, O. M., SHAFEY, S., and SHIMOJOY, S.
SCHUR, P.: Lower lumbar and sacral root and shear lesions, 463
Sciatic nerve, movements induced by straight leg raising in intrapelvic section of, 12
Sclerosis, multiple, and scrapie, 560
—, blood groups, genetic linkage, trait association, and chromosomal pattern in, 218
—, cyanide metabolism and vitamin B12 in, 426
—, immunological specificity of gamma globulin in cerebrospinal fluid in, 61
—, serum cholesterol linoleate levels in, 212
Scrapie, multiple sclerosis and, 560
SEARS, R., WILKES, R., and ATKINSON, W. J.: Study of the use of isotopes in hydrocephalus, 186
Sedative intraventricular therapy, 461
Sedative intraventricular therapy, 461
Serum cholesterol linoleate levels in multiple sclerosis, 212
— enzyme variations and histological abnormalities in carrier state in Duchenne dystrophy, 104
SHAFEY, S. See ARONSON, H., SHAFEY, S., and GARGANO, P.
SHENKIN, H. A. See TATSUMI, T., and SHENKIN, H. A.
SHIMOJOY, S. See BETETA, E., SCHEINBERG, P., REINMUTH, O. M., SHAFEY, S., and SHIMOJOY, S.
Skeletal muscle, enzyme histochemistry of, 516, 519
—, changes in, during experimental denervation and reinnervation, 99
SMALL, J. M.: Total circulatory arrest in the treatment of intracranial vascular anomalies, 183
SMITH, R.: Changes in the enzyme histochemistry of skeletal muscle during experimental denervation and reinnervation, 99
SMITH, R. J.: An evaluation of surgical treatment for spinal cord compression due to metastatic carcinoma, 152
Societas Medicorum Bohemoslovenica J. E.: Participants in, 228
SOCETY OF BRITISH NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS: 70th Meeting, 183
Society of British Neurological Surgeons: 70th Meeting, 183
—, See 71st Meeting, 459
SOUTH, E. A. See FOX, H., and SOUTH, E. A.
Soviet neurosurgery, 462
SPANOS, N. C.: Supracallosal anterior cerebral aneurysms, 459
Stapedectomy, involvement with, 99
Stereotactic operations for Parkinsonism, involuntary movements following, with special reference to hemi-chorea, 291
— surgery, cryptogenic lesions in, 184
— tractotomy in surgical treatment of mental illness, 304
STRANG, B. R.: Clinical trial with a beta-receptor antagonist (propranolol) in Parkinsonism, 404
Supracallosal anterior cerebral aneurysms, 459
Supratentorial arachnoidal cyst associated with, 459
Thoracic intervertebral discs, neurological manifestations of, 460
THORBEN, T.: Central responses to electrical stimulation of, 223
Syringomyelia, hydrodynamic mechanism of: relationship to myelocyte, 247
TAREN, J. A.: Anatomical pathways related to the clinical findings in aneurysms of the anterior communicating artery, 228
TATSUMI, T., and SHENKIN, H. A.: Occlusion of the vertebral artery, 225
THOMAS, H.: See KERR, J. H., DURAN, C. O., THOMAS, H., and WRIGHT, R.
THOMPSON, R. H. S.: See BAKER, R. W. R., SANDERS, H., THOMPSON, R. H. S., and ZILKHA, K. J.
Thoracic intervertebral discs, neurological manifestations of, 460
TUCKER, E.: Central responses to electrical activation of the peripheral nerves supplying the intrinsic hand muscles, 482
Thymectomy, autoantibodies after, in patient later developing myasthenia gravis, 429
Tic douloureux, precise alcoholic Gasserian injection for, 65
Trait association in multiple sclerosis, 218
Tumour, cerebral, presenting with hyperventilation, 317
Tumours, acoustic, facial nerve preservation by posterior fossa trans-
mesetal microdissection in total removal of, 311
—, brain, malignant, in tissue culture, 185
—, cerebellar, cystic, 461
TURNER, E. See BOND, W. H., RICHARDS, D., and TURNER, E.
Ultrasound, 1st American Conference on Medical Diagnostic Application of, 190
VAS, C. I., PARSONAGE, M., and LORD, O. C.: Parkinsonism associated
with laryngeal spasm, 401
Vascular and sweat gland responses in paw of cat, independence of
central controls of, 223
Vasomotor function, reflex, immunologically induced disorder of, 510
VELATE, A. S. See GILLIATT, R. W., MELVILLE, I. D., VELATE, A. S., and
WILLISON, R. G.
Ventricle, lateral, pedunculated gliomas in, 548
—, third, colloid cysts of, 461
Vertebral artery, occlusion of, 235
Vibration perception in normal man and medical patients, 503
Visual disorientation, case of, 453
Vitamin B₁₂ and cyanide metabolism in multiple sclerosis, 426
WALDMAN, A. L. See DAROFF, R. B., and WALDMAN, A. L.
WALTON, J. N. See BARWICK, D. D., O'SELTON, J. W., and WALTON, J. N.
WARRINGTON, E. K. See KINSBURNE, M., and WARRINGTON, E. K.
WEBSTER, K. E. See CARMAN, J. R., COWAN, W. M., POWELL, T. P. S.,
and WEBSTER, K. E.
WILKES, R. See SEARS, R., WILKES, R., and ATKINSON, W. J.
WILLIAMS, M. See ROCHFORD, G., and WILLIAMS, M.
WILLISON, R. G. See GILLIATT, R. W., MELVILLE, I. D., VELATE, A. S.,
and WILLISON, R. G.
WING, L., and LADER, M. H.: Physiological and clinical effects of amylo-
barbitone sodium therapy in patients with anxiety states, 78
—. See also LADER, M. H., and WING, L.
WIVEL, N. A.: See CHANDOR, B. B., FORNO, L. S., and WIVEL, N. A.
WOLMAN, L.: Cystic cerebellar tumours, 461
Word frequency, effects of: in development and breakdown of use of
names, 407
WRIGHT, R. See KERR, J. H., DURAN, C. G., THOMAS, H., and WRIGHT, R.
ZILKHA, K. J. See BAKER, R. W. R., SANDERS, H., THOMPSON, R. H. S.,
and ZILKHA, K. J.
—. See MATTHEWS, D. M., WILSON, J., and ZILKHA, K. J.