**Book reviews**


This general textbook starts with a useful description of examination of the nervous system in relation to development and continues with chapters by different authors covering all fields of neurological disease in childhood, including metabolic defects and head injury in some detail. The range of subjects described is wide, with inevitable sacrifice of detail, but a good bibliography is appended to each chapter. Clinical description and differential diagnosis are uniformly good, and many tables summarize much information.

This book is recommended as an excellent up-to-date survey of a rapidly growing subject.


The author of this small book has himself contributed significantly to the subject in the past five years, and has thoroughly mastered the literature. He has now brought together the large amount of rather scattered work on the theme of cerebrovascular disease and presented it with some critical assessment. The result is a valuable contribution, made more useful by discussions on the pathology of the conditions by Professor Crawford and Dr. Crompton. Not all will agree with all the conclusions, but reference to the sources is given for those who wish to re-assess for themselves. One of the special values of the book is that it is written by a practising neurologist. The subject is one which lies on the borderland of neurology, cardiovascular disease, and that fast vanishing entity 'general medicine'. The neurological viewpoint will therefore of itself provide fresh insights to some of those practically concerned in the subject. It can be recommended to all those having the care of patients with cerebrovascular disease, especially perhaps to geriatricians, and as a modern résumé of the subject for more senior medical students.


In this monograph the author proposes a mechanism for the action of ionizing radiations on aerobic organisms, which he calls the CU (I, II)-peroxy theory. It is postulated that such irradiation leads to the production of organic peroxides which cause damage not only to nuclei, but also to oxidative processes in the cell cytoplasm mediated by copper-containing enzymes. Since copper plays such a central part in this theory several chapters are devoted to a discussion of the chemistry of copper; a detailed account is given of its importance in biological systems such as cytochrome oxidase, caeruloplasmin, and other copper-containing proteins.

In a section on the medical aspects, new ideas on the role of copper in the pathogenesis of Wilson's disease are presented, involving the inhibitory effects of high tissue copper levels on mitochondrial enzymes: the bearing of this concept upon treatment of the disease with chelating agents is discussed. An excellent account is given of the effects of radiation on metallo-proteins and of the biological results of peroxide formation in tissues. Other chapters deal with theories of radioprotection, the role of chemical reagents, such as cyanide and -SH compounds, and variations in metabolic state, which are discussed in detail.

The book gives a clear and comprehensive review of a complex subject. It includes much useful data and an extensive bibliography, and will be valuable to biochemists interested in radiation effects, and also to those concerned with other aspects of copper in biological systems.


The eight chapters in the latest volume of this series comprise six from the United States, one from this country, and one from Sweden, and this, I suspect, reflects the relative interest in this subject in the New World and the Old. There are five review articles covering the pathology of cerebral protein metabolism; the blood-brain barrier; monoamine oxidase inhibitors (this unfortunately includes no mention of that fascinating phenomenon the 'cheese reaction'); the phenothiazine tranquilizers; and comments on the use of symptom rating scales. In addition to the review articles there are three research articles on 'Micro-iontophoretic studies on cortical neurones', 'Responses from the visual cortex of unanaesthetized monkeys', and 'Multiple molecular forms of brain hydrolases', the first of these being a particularly fascinating account of the microtechniques which are now available for studying the behaviour of single neurones in the cortex.


The large amount of information presented concisely and with unusual clarity makes this book not only highly suitable for those taking advanced examinations in pathology but also for the practising physician who needs an up-to-date source of reference. Apart from matters of detail there are very helpful discussions of a basic scientific character. A new chapter on microbial genetics has been added and the section in diagnostic medical microbiology has been rewritten. The account of virology has been brought up to date and will be of special interest to neurologists. Stress is laid throughout on practical aspects of clinical infections and chemotherapy.

R. M. Norman

**Tay-Sachs' Disease** Edited by Bruno W. Volk. (Pp. viii + 158; illustrated. $5.75.) New York: Grune and Stratton Inc. 1964.

This monograph, by four authors, covers the history, the clinical features, pathology, biochemistry, and epidemiology of Tay-Sachs disease, with extensive bibliographies. It contains a great deal of information and is embellished with some beautiful electronmicrographs and histochemical preparations. It is odd that the
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authors make no attempt to discuss the relationship between this disease, its variants, and other neuronal storage diseases such as Niemann-Pick's disease.


This is a useful and well-presented volume. The editor has planned to help the practising general physician, but the neurologist will also find the chapters both stimulating and instructive.


The waves of optimism which have punctuated the recent history of psychiatric treatment have made little impression on the long-term course of schizophrenia. This M.R.C. memorandum records an attempt to set up a partially controlled experiment designed to evaluate the effects of modern techniques of industrial rehabilitation on the symptoms and performance of a small number of moderately disabled schizophrenics who had been in hospital for more than two years. The description is factual; the results are fully written up; the implications and limitations of the results are clearly discussed. And all in 40 pages. Multum in parvo.

LE BEGAILEMENT By E. Pichon and S. Borel-Maisonny. (Pp. 146; 9 figures. 16F.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1964. This is the second edition of a well-known French book on stammering. It is based on the suggestion that a defect of verbal thinking underlies the disorder. The authors provide illustrative case histories, differential diagnoses, and an interesting account of their individual methods of re-education. Speech therapists may find the material useful in the symptomatic management of stammerers but the scientific basis of the authors' theory and practice remains obscure.


The assembly of previously published papers written by a mixed bag of authors does not make a cohesive book, yet this has become a favourite device for drawing attention to the upsurge of fashionable lines of inquiry and practice. Conditioning procedures (alias behaviour therapy) are now running neck and neck with the study of mental retardation and the pursuit of social psychiatry as winners in the race for contemporary psychiatric attention, especially in North America. The present volume contains 25 papers, published, with one exception, during the last 15 years. Dr. Franks divides them into six groups, of which the first three are diagnostic and investigatory, the last three devoted to treatment and psychopathology. Inevitably the articles vary enormously in relevance, length, value, and clarity. Some of the writers find themselves in unusual company; thus, Dr. Hallpike and Dr. Dix, on peep-show audiometry, are followed by Dr. Leo Alexander describing how he used the conditional psychogalvanic reflex for assessing the treatment of depression; an article on the psychiatric nurse as a 'behavioral engineer' is sandwiched between positive reinforcement of autistic children and the experimental analysis of hysterical blindness.


This is an American textbook with a difference. Dynamic psychopathology derived from psychoanalysis is played down, heredity is given due weight, tranquillizers are cooly appraised and a verdict of over-use entered against them, and the great contribution of 'descriptive psychiatrists' of the German and Swiss schools is adequately recognized. The book is not written for psychiatrists but for professional people who encounter mental illness in some form during their daily work. Dr. von Mendelssohn succeeds in his professed intention not to dress up ignorance or conceal unpleasant facts; what he provides is a sober, balanced account, humdrum in style but sensible and honest.

SCANDINAVIAN NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETY

The 19th annual meeting of the Scandinavian Neurosurgical Society will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 9-10 September 1966. The President is Professor Gunnar av Björksten.

Participation and hotel arrangements can be arranged through Professor Gösta Norlén, Sahlgrenska Sjukhus, Gothenburg, Sweden.

RESEARCH AWARDS OF 1966 OFFERED BY THE SOCIETY OF BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY

The Society of Biological Psychiatry is offering three annual awards made possible by the A. E. Bennett Neuropsychiatric Research Foundation. The awards consist of first, second, and third awards of $500, $250, and $100 for the three best research papers offered. The awards are given preferably to young investigators, who are not necessarily members of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, for work which has recently been finished but not published. For the purposes of the award 'young' scientists are considered to be those who are not well known, not heads of laboratories, nor established as independent investigators. The recipient of the first prize...