training to clinical practice becomes ever greater. The divorce between preclinical and clinical studies mitigates against this as do the water-tight compartments in which the pre-clinical subjects are contained. In an effort to break down some of these barriers the authors have presented the essentials of neuroanatomy, neuropathology, neurochemistry, and neuropsychology within one cover. They have not gone the whole way and treated each part of the nervous system under these four aspects; rather they have presented these subjects in four separate sections. But at least this is a start towards a more unitive approach and the task has been well done. It is perhaps a disadvantage for the English reader to be given the Latin nomenclature for anatomical terms. The illustrations, on the other hand, are very well done. The book is certainly to be recommended.


Oedema of the brain is a complication of so many conditions—trauma, infection, neoplasms, infarction, metabolic disturbances—that one cannot be engaged for long in the practice of neurology without encountering the problems posed by its management. This volume tells us what has been learnt from the study of experimental oedema in animals, passes on to the pathophysiology of cerebral oedema in man, and after a satisfactory description of the clinical diagnosis ends with details of a variety of methods of treatment with critical assessment of the value of each. The illustrations, especially those from the electron microscope, are excellent and the bibliography exhaustive. In all this is a valuable and well-produced book upon an important and topical subject.


This volume is a translation from the German of a work originally published from Budapest in 1960. Particular attention is paid to the inter-relationships of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal complex, and factors involved in the release of A.C.T.H. and the various adrenal hormones.

The general structure of each chapter is that a review of the literature is followed by an account of the authors' experiments in that field. This plan leads to a lack of balance, since the authors' work is naturally treated in disproportionate detail, yet in insufficient detail to allow the reader to assess the value of their evidence, for important information (for instance, the number of animals in each experimental group) is often lacking. The result is a rather unsatisfactory compromise between a review of the subject and a report of original work. The volume is best read as an outline of the authors' researches in the framework of the situation six years ago, rather than as a balanced review of the current status of this important aspect of the regulatory function of the neuro-endocrine system.


This volume contains the proceedings of a symposium held on 21 and 22 September 1964 in Freiburg under the chairmanship of Professor Karl Thomas of Gottingen. Though language difficulties have meant that this reviewer has not been able to read the papers which it includes in the degree of detail which he would have wished, the volume clearly contains much of interest. At a time when so many reports of symposia on muscle diseases are being published from the U.S.A., Canada, and Great Britain, it is a pleasure to read in this work comprehensive accounts of work being done in the clinical, genetic, biochemical, and histological fields on the continent of Europe. The volume is clearly printed, well illustrated and pleasantly produced, and all who are interested in disorders of muscle and who can read German will profit from reading and possessing it. Not only does it deal with muscular dystrophy of the myotonic and non-myotonic varieties, but there are also papers on endocrine and metabolic myopathies, experimental myopathy, and myasthenia gravis. The least satisfactory chapters come towards the end of the volume and deal with a series of uncontrolled trials of treatment of muscular dystrophy with various anabolic steroids and nucleotides and nucleosides. As was amply documented in the discussion which followed some of these papers, uncontrolled trials of this type can never hope to solve the problem of muscular dystrophy and do a disservice to medicine. This volume is not and does not claim to be a comprehensive account of muscle disease, but it contains a good deal of valuable information.

**SPINAL INJURIES** edited by Philip Harris. (Pp. 168; 106 figures. 32s. 6d.) The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

It is necessary to observe, because the volume itself shows no publication date, that more than two years elapsed between the holding of this Edinburgh symposium in June 1963 and the publication of its proceedings. But in the event not much has been lost through this delay: the old arguments and disagreements, about whether to operate and how to treat the bladder, are there, and the

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There are a number of diseases which affect the skin and nervous system, many of them being of heredofamilial type. The author has listed 42 of these in this small volume, giving the sex incidence, genetic features, age of onset, pathological characteristics, and brief synopses of their dermatological and neurological manifestations. It is an excellent, practical work of ready reference that will be of great value to the practising physician, who often needs to check some point concerning one of these conditions quickly and easily.
differing points of view are conveniently displayed for the many who remain bewildered by the experts. The well-known views of Sir Ludwig Guttmann, especially those against early operative treatment, are forcefully repeated, and there is an orthopaedic surgeon’s reply from F. W. Holdsworth whose clear writings have in recent years made certain aspects of this complex subject more intelligible to common surgical people.

This symposium reinforces the already overwhelming case for specialized care in regional centres, where different medical specialists can meet, together with many others who have contributions towards the mitigation of the problems of traumatic paraplegia. But during the great achievements of physical, mental, and industrial rehabilitation in recent years, something important may have been overlooked. A friend recently told me that she would like to see the highest possible education given to paraplegics. The physical attainments of their incomplete bodies will always be limited, but the potentialities of their intact brains could surely be more intensively explored and exploited. There is little mention of the teacher in this book.

There is a fine review by Ernest Bors of the mechanism of micturition (85 references) and Professor Romans gives an excellent concise account of the arterial blood supply of the spinal cord. There are many other useful and interesting contributions; but a tendency to sermonize, which might have been appropriate at the meeting itself, seems out of place in its published proceedings, particularly where, during the closing exhortation in a paper on social rehabilitation, the editor is discovered, together with Sir Ludwig, in the company of Solomon and Job. But certainly Mr. Harris deserves thanks for his labours.

JOHN POTTER

BOOK REVIEWS


This well-written book examines the author’s hypothesis that one of the most important long-term influences on systemic blood pressure is the resistance to cerebral medullary blood flow and that therefore hypertension commonly arises because of an increase in this resistance. Those who know Dr. Dickinson’s work on this subject will not be surprised to learn that he constructs this hypothesis very carefully, tests it experimentally, and finally proves it to his own satisfaction. He admits that his argument is teleological, that it is based on a series of deductions from guesses, and that he may have overemphasized experimental results which agree with his predictions and played down those which do not.

In the first part of the book the author shows that there is a centre in the medulla which if ischaemic can raise systemic arterial pressure, and that increase in cerebrovascular resistance reduces cerebral blood flow and has a systemic pressor effect. In the second part the main hypothesis that hypertension results from, rather than causes, increased vertebral artery resistance is examined, but the fact that cerebral blood flow is normal in all types of hypertension makes this difficult to accept, as does the experience of many workers in this field that stenotic vertebral artery disease is not infrequently found in normotensive patients. Moreover not everyone will accept the statement that all transient cerebral ischaemic attacks are due to distal emboli. In the third part of the book other aspects of the hypothesis are described and the last chapter comprises a final well-argued and succinct account of the author’s views, and is followed by an extensive and comprehensive bibliography.

This book is enjoyable, stimulating and provocative, and although many will find it difficult to accept all his conclusions the author must be congratulated on his refreshing candour, his direct style of writing, and his remarkable ability to turn evidence from other sources to good and persuasive account.

A. BARHAM CARTER


This book largely records the experience of the Aarhus Neurosurgical Clinic in the field of facial pain. Although it becomes a little philosophical at times, in general it is a practical and useful guide to the diagnosis and treatment of facial pain. This complaint is common. Otic douloureux, facial migraine Costen’s syndrome, and a few clearly defined ear, nose, and throat and dental sources of pain have been segregated, the large mass of remaining diagnoses always seems to contain a large psychogenic element. This makes both diagnosis and treatment difficult. This book will be useful to all those dealing with facial pain: both in diagnosis and in treatment. It is rather biased towards the organic diagnosis and the author is perhaps too little aware how psychotherapeutic surgery can be! However, this may be in part because of the type of case referred to a neurosurgical clinic.


It is said to be impossible for a novelist to create a good man who is not also a bore. It is equally difficult for the author of a textbook to avoid being dull. The majority of modern medical textbooks, more handsome and attractive than of yore, are competently written, well organized conspicues which undoubtedly provide students with all they need to know at their examinations. The student reads them to gain some factual knowledge and guidance. He wants clarity and exposition and he usually gets them. Later, when he is qualified, he finds them less satisfactory when he is struggling with problems of diagnosis and treatment at the bedside. The older clinician looks, perhaps unjustifiably, for much more than this in any new textbook. He turns its pages with curiosity, particularly when, as in this case, he has no personal acquaintance with the author. He ‘knows’ most of the facts and is reminded of many he has forgotten. He wonders about the author’s view on certain topics, his