

The October 1967 Issue

THE OCTOBER 1967 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

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Phaeochromocytoma and cerebellar haemangioblastoma R. D. ILLINGWORTH

Median and ulnar neuropathy in the guinea-pig PAMELA M. FULLERTON and R. W. GILLIATT

Spinal cord embolism LIONEL WOLMAN and PETER BRADSHAW

Quantitative electromyography using automatic analysis: studies in healthy subjects and patients with primary muscle disease A. L. ROSE and R. G. WILLISON

Hereditary cataplexy JO-ANN M. GELARDI and JASON W. BROWN

Enzymes of the glycogen cycle and glycolysis in various human neuromuscular disorders SALVATORE DI MAURO, CORRADO ANGELINI, and CLAUDIA CATANI

Longitudinal movement of radioiodinated albumin within extravascular spaces of peripheral nerves following three systems of experimental trauma ROSS MELLICK and J. B. CAVANAGH

Studies of the carrier state in the Duchenne type of muscular dystrophy Part I Effect of exercise on serum creatine kinase activity PETER HUDGSON, DAVID GARDNER-MEDWIN, R. J. T. PENNINGTON, and JOHN N. WALTON

Combined degeneration of the spinal cord due to deficiency of alimentary vitamin B12 A. VERJAAL and A. H. C. C. TIMMERMANS-VAN DEN BOS

Phrenic nerve conduction in man J. NEWSOM DAVIS

Tachistoscopic number estimation in patients with unilateral cerebral lesions ELIZABETH K. WARRINGTON and MERLE JAMES

Excitability of motor neurones in spinal shock in man E. DIAMANTOPOULOS and P. ZANDER OLSEN

The relation between chronic polyneuropathy and osteosclerotic myeloma J. B. MORLEY and A. C. SCHWIEGER

Book Reviews

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quately covered by medical privilege, as commonly interpreted: the psychotherapist may not be a physician, and the patient's certainty that everything he tells will be treated as inviolably secret is essential to the psychotherapist's effectiveness. In examining the many facets of this general question Dr. Slovenko pays less attention to the basic principles governing social as against personal obligations than to details of the remarkable diversity of law and practice in this matter in the various American states. Obiter dicta display the author's quiet despair; thus, in a footnote, he says: 'In this day of highly sophisticated eavesdropping devices, it is practically impossible to assure privacy. 1984 is already here'.

Amid the clamour of dogmatists about the varieties of depression, a penetrating whisper can be heard coming from those investigators who have analysed descriptive and aetiological data without prejudice. Dr. Angst's monograph is of this kind. He has examined and tabulated the extensive information available regarding 331 patients admitted to the Zurich clinic with a diagnosis of endogenous depression between 1959 and 1963; in 73 there was also a schizophrenic admixture. A genetic study was made on 326 of them and their parents, siblings, spouses, and children.

Dr. Angst's main conclusions are that environmental as well as hereditary causes are at work (especially when the first attack comes on later in life), that women are much more liable to the condition than men, and that manic-depressive psychosis is not, as Kraepelin conceived it to be, a single disorder: the patients who have only depressive phases are distinct in specified respects from those with the alternating disorder, and involutional melancholics are closely akin to the former group. Badly stated, these conclusions do not sound epoch-making, and they add to, rather than lessen, the nosological difficulties entailed in subdividing morbid depression: but they command the respect due to a sober, judicially balanced, factual inquiry into a knotty problem.

AUBREY LEWIS

Kraepelinian classification depends heavily on the course of the illness, but there are many practical difficulties in the long-term follow-up of patients other than those permanently in institutions. Here are retrospective reports of the progress over 22-37 years of 115 patients with a variety of behaviour disorders, the largest groups being of hysterical, asthenic, sensitive, and depressive personalities. The value of this work is lessened by its brevity; one would like to have available individual case histories and precise diagnoses of psychotic relatives, for example. Nevertheless there are many interesting observations, and the information given, though incomplete, is a valuable addition to the limited knowledge in this field.

This book is addressed to students and practitioners of psychiatry and mental health. The authors consider that psychiatry should be broadly founded on basic behavioural and biological sciences, and include an introduction on the contributions of psychology, sociology, anthropology, neurophysiology, neurochemistry, and ('last but not least') psychoanalysis. In conformity with recent trends in the United States there is a more critical approach to psychoanalytical doctrine and therapy, and less reluctance to use pharmacotherapy as anything other than second best to psychoanalysis. There is a disappointing omission of quantitative data on matters such as distribution of age at onset and outcome of treatment, data which are essential if psychiatry is ever to be put on a scientific basis. Nevertheless this book is a valuable complement to the more constitutional approach of British psychiatry.

NOTICES

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM

The 28th International Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism will be held from 15 to 20 September 1968 in Washington, D.C. Further information may be obtained from the Secretariat, 28th International Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism, 1130 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY

The IVth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy will take place in Vienna, Austria, from 16 to 21 September 1968. Further information from the Secretariat of the Congress, c/o Wiener medizinische Akademie, Stadiongasse 6-8, A.1010 Wien, Austria.

SCANDINAVIAN NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETY

The 21st meeting of the Scandinavian Neurosurgical Society will take place in Århus, Denmark, on Friday, 30 August, and Saturday, 31 August, 1968. Further information from Professor Rich. Malmros, Neurosurgical Department, Kommunehospitalet, Århus, Denmark.

CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

The 18th annual meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons will be held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada, 24-28 September, 1968. Further information from Dr. John M. Thompson, 1955 Blossom Way South, St. Peters burg, Florida 33712.
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