overall value of the book which will be of great help to all concerned with cerebrovascular disease.


Medical students will find this book helpful, interesting, and entertaining to read. It is an account of eighty neurological cases taken from the authors' practice and covering a wide range of neurological disease. The histories and physical findings are clearly set out and not too long, and the discussions relevant and on orthodox lines. The book is arranged in chapters, with four cases described and discussed in each, but the discussion does not follow immediately on the clinical findings, to allow the student, as he is encouraged to do, to make up his own mind. The book naturally does not claim to be a neurological text but is an informative and stimulating piece of reading for the medical student on a neurological 'firm'. It should be pointed out that it is possible, clinically, to distinguish positional vertigo from brain-stem ischaemia (p. 69) if one is careful not to extend or rotate the neck in altering the position of the patient's head. This can be easily achieved by putting the head and shoulders over the end of the couch when carrying out the tests. The carotid arteriogram reproduced on p. 187 showing a 'blush' in the frontal region might have been better chosen, since it shows an apparently similar opacity over the parieto-occipital region; but this is presumably a matter of reproduction.


The first edition of this book was published in 1962. The author designed it in such a way that in three clinical terms the student is introduced in an orderly fashion to the methods of neurological diagnosis at the bedside. The three sections deal with motor signs, sensory signs, and cerebral signs. In this second edition he has added a short account of that important and neglected topic—the distinction between functional and organic signs.

Thus the plan of the book is unusual. But the originality does not stop there. The author has tried to show the student the nature of the mental processes used by a clinician—observational comparison, correlation, inference, and deduction. The logic of the diagnostician is admirably outlined; the meaning of 'empirical science' emerges. The experienced doctor appreciates such analyses; he nods in sympathy. It is to be hoped that the student does not find them too wearisome, just when he is at last allowed to approach the bedside. But if he follows the argument it will assist him not only in neurology, but in all his clinical studies.

Many of the author's comments also carry a note of originality and thought. There are some tart words of warning about teachers and clinicians. Dr. Renfrew also has courage. Few neurologists care to coin a new term; it is a practice very much frowned on by the Establishment. He has invented two new terms—'achoraeesthesia' (a loss of space sense) and 'achorognosia' (spatial agnosia). But, to make up for it, the student is advised to drop the word 'epilepsy', as it has no meaning. Stimulating teaching.

**J. D. SPILLANE**


Several monographs have been written on the subject of mycotic infection: this one is specifically concerned with involvement of the central nervous system and it comes from a team of workers at Duke University.

It is a useful book for many reasons. It contains an analysis of the world's extensive literature as to the incidence of the disease, sources, and routes of involvement of the nervous system, clinical features, cerebrospinal fluid findings, course, and response to treatment. It is not surprising that the literature is vast, because, when a case is diagnosed and subsequently studied, those concerned usually feel that they have a duty to report anything so rare as a fungal infection of the nervous system, especially since almost any case can be claimed to be unique in some particular respect.

This book is also valuable for its fine range of illustrations, the advice offered on staining techniques, and its convenient classification of pathogenic fungi. There is, too, at the end of the book, a useful short table on the differential diagnosis of fungi according to their morphological appearances in tissues. The emphasis of the book is on the identification of the organism in tissues (for instance the differential diagnosis of actinomycosis from nocardia and streptomyces), so far as this is ever possible.

The number of fungal types that have been identified in lesions within the nervous system will surprise many readers, and in this volume perhaps for the first time they will be able to read about central nervous system involvement in paeclomycosis, allescheriosis, ustilagomycosis, penicilliosis, and many other rare infections. Those pathologists who have unidentified granulomas in their collections will here garner fresh ideas and wish once more that they had been afforded the opportunity of a culture. The importance of frozen sections in biopsy work is stressed, because if fungal elements are immediately recognized there is a better chance of securing their culture. The limited value of skin and serological tests is discussed.

Among the unexpected sources of infection mentioned in this book are blood transfusion, intravenous therapy, lumbar punctures for the purpose of introducing bacterial antibiotics or anaesthetics, and—one which unhappily must now be more in our minds than formerly—the self-administration of drugs.


The main title of this book is very misleading; the reader
will find nothing about physiotherapy or occupational therapy within its pages. It is the subtitle which gives the clue to what it is about and even this must be applied more to the basic problems of strokes than to their rehabilitation.

The book opens with an excellent review of the epidemiology of cerebrovascular disease, with particular reference to the data provided by current prospective studies and the problems they pose. In general it suggests that the allegedly changing pattern of cerebrovascular disease is due more to epidemiological artefact than to changes in pathology. There follows a useful discussion of the relationship of stroke illness to conditions such as hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia, and heart disease, after which comes what might have been placed earlier—a succinct account of the current classification of strokes.

The chapter on the evaluation of a patient’s potential for rehabilitation is more theoretical than practical and the chapters on vocational training are relevant mainly to the American scene. The section on aphasia is interesting and somewhat controversial. The author seems to regard apraxias and agnosias as ‘transmission problems’ distinct from central integrative mechanisms which are the aphasiases. He does not explain how the apraxias and agnosias differ from paralysis or failure of primary sensory input. On the practical side he recommends delaying speech therapy until spontaneous recovery has achieved all it can, which is a comfort to physicians who are charged with having delayed calling the speech therapist until it is too late. He also favours the general stimulation of communication by contriving situations in relation to the patient, rather than the set-piece teaching of language which in his experience is of little value.

Overall, this is an unusual book, containing much useful information for those interested in patients with strokes.


Dr. Roberts is not only a well-known research-worker but is also a teacher of neurophysiologist who is therefore constantly in contact with students and knows their doubts, inquiries, and needs. In the preface to his book he reminds us of some very pertinent facts concerning teaching: ‘... in the course of teaching, we learn. It often happens that the form in which a question is put by a student raises in the teacher’s mind, possibly for the first time, issues of which the student himself is quite unaware. The teacher then has to probe the implications and find answers to further questions before he can reply to the first query with an explanation that is satisfactory to himself as well as to the student...’

The present book, then, is Dr. Roberts’s own interpretation of the neurophysiology of postural mechanisms, which has been derived from a whole series of questionings and searchings over the years. The result is a highly individual account of these topics, approached from a mechanistic point of view and most clearly described and explained.

In the first five chapters the essential physiology of peripheral nerve and skeletal muscle is expounded, as well as the general properties of sense organs and the coding of sensory information. These preliminary chapters lead up to Chapters 5 to 11—the main concern of the book. The text is free from references, which makes it particularly easy to read. There are a few lapses into poetic description (presumably derived from those notes, referred to in the preface, which were made in the shade of pine trees on Elba), as in the description of a moto-neurone pool as a ‘compact, cigar-shaped cloud’, and occasionally Dr. Roberts’s sense of humour sneaks out with his account of the method employed in casting a cow based on a knowledge of postural reflexes, and the special significance of the elephant’s gait when fleeing from a hedgehog!

Many students should find this book invaluable, for it will answer many of their doubts and questions about postural mechanisms, and many teachers will be interested in Dr. Roberts’s approach to the subject and his interpretation.

GEORGE RUSHWORTH


Dr. Purdon Martin’s special interest in diseases of the basal ganglia is known to all neurologists and in this small volume he brings together and amplifies some of his work in this field. One of his earliest studies was in Brain in 1927, ‘Hemichorea resulting from a local lesion of the brain’, and his interest in the extrapyramidal motor system has continued ever since. His comparatively recent observations on the abnormalities of postural responses to tilting the body in cases of Parkinsonism have drawn special attention to this aspect of the motor disorder. Dr. Martin has certainly shown that postural responses are lacking in cases with severe destruction of the pallidum in post-encephalitic cases, but he then claims that all the ‘negative symptoms’ observed in Parkinsonism (such as bradykinesia and rigidity) are due to deficiencies of postural reflexes. There is so little that is fully understood about the organization of movement control that the reviewer finds it difficult to appreciate the significance of this conclusion.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL


The author has studied change in temperature in the brains of experimental animals in response to various stimuli. The temperatures have been measured with thermistors on the ends of needles, and it is argued, and evidence is adduced, that a change in temperature reflects change in blood flow. Much quicker changes can be recognized by this method than by most conventional methods of assessing brain blood flow. The author adduces evidence that rapid and considerable changes in brain blood flow can occur which are nervously, not humorally, mediated, that they are under control of brain-stem vaso-motor centres, that afferent structures affecting this nervous control of the circulation of the brain include the
Book Reviews

Geoffrey Rushworth

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