which the negative sites are occupied by Na and Ca ions. A detailed thermodynamic analysis shows that this model of the membrane can account for the electrical events of the equivalent circuit theory but, in addition, offers reasonable explanations for the abolition of the action potential by chemical and thermal means. Hodgkin (Sherrington lecture, 1961) was unable to account for the delayed cooling which followed the initial heat of the action potential, but this is predicted by the Tasaki-Teorell model.

The phenomena of the Hodgkin-Huxley membrane are continuous or kinetic; the Tasaki-Teorell model is discontinuous with two stable states, changing abruptly from resting to depolarized state caused by a 'phase transition' of the membrane macromolecules.

This exciting book will undoubtedly be valuable for the 'students and investigators' for whom it is written. The general reader is constantly aware of his lack of knowledge of thermodynamics and mathematics but careful reading makes it clear that a new and powerful weapon has been forged for the study of nerve excitation.

J. A. SIMPSON


The author of this fine volume has been encouraged to present some of his extensive collection of clinical photographs for the benefit of those who aspire to be clinical neurologists. The result will certainly be helpful to many, but the reviewer would have preferred an exposition of the whole field of clinical diagnosis which is also illustrated by these photographs on perhaps a smaller scale.

Unfortunately, a picture rarely conveys the vital 'dimension' of movement, and, for this reason, it might seem preferable nowadays to prepare carefully edited films which illustrate all aspects of diagnosis and clinical examination. It may be hoped that Dr. Spillane's pioneer work in this volume will lead to a fuller study of the problems of educating young neurologists. The senior physician may often hope to transfer his acquired knowledge to the next generation in some useful form, but very few succeed in doing this by writing a book, or indeed by any method other than by demonstration in the clinic.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL


This is a useful little book to revise the anatomy of the nervous system, rather than to introduce it to those without previous knowledge. The text is clear and the diagrams are helpful. The outflow from the pallidum is not adequately described. The section on physiology is confined to the peripheral control of the lower motor neurone, and is oversimplified. The book is recommended as a refresher course in neuroanatomy but not as an introduction to neurophysiology.


In 1959 in Morocco many thousand cases of paralysis developed in the course of a few months. Synthetic jet engine oil, which had become obsolete, was being sold to the poor as cooking oil, and this oil, which was designed to withstand the great temperatures of jet engines, contained triaryl-phosphate. This and allied compounds were the cause of the paralysis. The present book describes the experiences of the Red Cross team which assisted the Moroccan authorities in the major task of rehabilitation. They confirm previous findings that the first neurological symptoms are paraesthesiae in the lower limbs, and that as these go off in a few days, distal paralysis occurs in the lower limbs and may quickly be followed by distal paralysis in the upper limbs. The lesion is in the peripheral nerves, but the more severely affected cases may also have central nervous lesions. Electromyography, histopathology and, in two cases, necropsy examinations are described. It is disappointing, however, that the circumstances did not allow nerve conduction studies, and that the necropsy studies are very incomplete. About 72% of the patients were surveyed, and of those only 3% were in hospital two years later, though a further 11% had some disability, almost exclusively in the lower limbs. There are many authors and the standard of contribution naturally varies. This reviewer felt that the clinical sections were more in the idiom of physical medicine than of neurology. The printing is good and the illustrations clear, but the production was marred in the copy sent for review by the first 32 pages appearing in apparently random order.

J. M. K. SPALDING


This is a remarkable volume which presents a vast amount of information regarding the diagnosis and investigation of neurological disorders in children. In parts the presentation is over-dogmatic and some of the statements regarding cerebral localization in Chapter II are not in accord with present day views.


Dr. von Békésy's ideas are always original and stimulating. In these published lectures he provides a brilliant exposition concerning the dominating role of inhibition in relation to all types of perception. These will be avidly studied by all interested in the problems of perception.
Book Reviews


This is a guide to the managament of acute head injuries. It is important, however, that those who deal with these cases. It may, perhaps, be regretted that the old-fashioned attempt to separate commotio cerebri from contusio cerebri still persists.

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY: DIMENSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

Twelve authors here review subjects closely or remotely related to psychopharmacology. The best of the 12 chapters, on the whole, are those that are closest to the main subject. D. R. Maxwell and A. D. Dayan have written clearly and critically about techniques of animal experimentation in psychopharmacology; Dayan's chapter is far more interesting than its title 'Basic neurological methods' might suggest. E. Jacobsen's account of the hallucinogens overcomes admirably the great intrinsic difficulties of the subject. A. Hordern's very readable chapter on the history of psychopharmacology illustrates vividly the point that most of the important advances in the physical and chemical treatment of mental illness were originally based on theoretical foundations that were not only subsequently discarded, but hardly deserved serious consideration even at the time.

The chapters by M. Weatherall on basic pharmacological principles, and by C. R. B. Joyce on the techniques of clinical trial are as clear and well constructed as those that I have just praised; I found them less interesting though—through no fault of the authors—partly because there is little that is very new to be said on their subjects and partly because most of the methodological traps against which Joyce warns us seem irritantly obvious.

The remaining chapters are disappointing. Chapter 5, on antidepressive drug therapy, tells us too much about well-known standard clinical psychiatry and about fashions in prescribing, and too little about the drugs themselves. Chapter 8 is jargon-ridden. Chapters 2 and 9 have only a very slight connexion with the title of the book, and Chapters 11 and 12 absolutely none—the authors will disagree with this, but I am firm.

G. S. BRINDLEY

NOTICES

CONFERENCE ON LATE EFFECTS OF HEAD INJURIES

The Research Group on Head Injuries of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies and World Federation of Neurology and the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness of the National Institutes of Health are sponsoring a Conference on the Late Effects of Head Injury, to be held on 6-7 March 1969 in Washington, D.C. Details from the Secretary of the Research Group, Dr. William F. Caveness, Building 31, Room 8A-03, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, U.S.A.

PROPOSED EUROPEAN BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR SOCIETY

The undersigned propose to form a European Society to study Brain and Behaviour. The objects of the Society shall be the furtherance of scientific inquiry, by holding periodic meetings and by such other activities as may be decided upon by the Society. A study group will meet in Rotterdam in the Spring of 1969 to consider the aims of the proposed Society and its constitution. All interested in becoming members are invited to write as soon as possible to Dr. A. Cowey (Institute of Experimental Psychology, 1 South Parks Road, Oxford, England) stating their qualifications, experience, present work and interests.

(Signed) K. Akert (Zurich); A. Cowey (Oxford); M. Frankenhaeuser (Stockholm); H. G. J. M. Kuypers (Rotterdam); J. Paillard (Marseille); D. Ploog (Munich); J. Scherrer (Paris); L. Weiskrantz (Oxford).
Book Reviews

G. S. Brindley

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