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A final chapter on the neuropathological aspects of
the disease includes recent biochemical and electron-
microscopical studies, but was written before the demon-
stration that at least one form of the disease can be
transmitted to experimental animals. The author dis-

terests, and appears to reject, the distinction between
Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease and subacute spongiform
encephalopathy; but his own views on whether he is
dealing with one disease or several are not very clear.
Through most of the book, he writes as if he were dealing
with a single disease, with variable manifestations, in
some ways related to other diseases—for instance, motor
neurone disease—but at the end he italicizes the conclu-
sion that 'J-C disease is not a unified disease concept'.

The book will be a very valuable work of reference for
many years to come. Blemishes include the use of a
rather peculiar jargon, which makes many passages diffi-
cult to understand; and the grand tabulation of cases
contains some errors of fact, of which the reader must
beware.

D. R. OPPENHEIMER

INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL NEUROLOGY By Sir Gordon
Holmes. 3rd edition, revised by Bryan Matthews.
(Pp. viii + 187; illustrated. 35s.) Livingstone: Edin-
burgh. 1968.

The third edition of this well-known text has been edited
and revised by Dr. Bryan Matthews. The textual alter-
hations have been quite extensive and some new material
has been included, though the total length is only slightly
increased. Several new illustrations have been added and
old ones removed. The section on convulsions has been
revised and appears as a separate chapter headed 'Epilepsy
and Loss of Consciousness', surely a retrograde step,
for Gordon Holmes often stressed that epileptic attacks
were merely one form of involuntary movement and that
to consider 'epilepsy' as a disease sui generis was danger-
ous in the clinical field. A short new chapter on neurology
in children has been added, though this contains little
information which could not have been scattered
judiciously among the text.

Dr. Matthews has done his revision well, and this
remains an excellent introduction to neurology for the
clinical student. The changes have, inevitably, removed
some of the highly original style of Gordon Holmes and
many older readers will regret this. Nonetheless, some
of the material in the first edition would now be mislead-
ing or frankly incorrect, and one could hardly expect an
undergraduate to identify these areas. The dilemma as
to whether to modernize the text or leave it as a 'period
piece' must have been hard to resolve. Many people will
agree, however, that Gordon Holmes's approach to the
subject has so much to commend it that it was justifiable
to make a modernized text available to the present-day
student. The first edition will continue to be read by
those, now rapidly decreasing in numbers, who knew
or worked with the author, but I would hope that this
edition will be read by most medical students and not
only those interested in neurology.

BRODIE HUGHES

ZUR NEUROANATOME UND NEUROPATHOLOGIE DER FRÜH-
FETALZEIT (Monographien aus dem Gesamtbgebiete
der Neurologie und Psychiatrie, Heft 127). By Hanns
Solcher. (Pp. 78; 39 figures. DM 39). Springer-Verlag:

This monograph is based on the histological examination
of the brains of 65 human foetuses ranging in size from
13 to 38 cm crown-heel length, which corresponds to
a gestational age of 14 to 32 weeks. The material consists
of 56 'spontaneous' abortions (the number of pregnancies
artificially interfered with was not known), four ther-
peutic abortions, and two foetuses removed from the
uterus after the mother's death. The first section contains
some observations on the normal development of the
brain during the stated period. The striking pathological
finding is the frequency of intracerebral haemorrhages
of various sizes and locations which were found in 61
cases. The author found it difficult to distinguish patho-
logical changes in nerve cells from autolytic changes
and cellular pathology is not, therefore, described or
discussed. The author surmises that a foetus may sur-
vive a cerebral haemorrhage contracted in utero and
that the destruction of tissue may result in what looks
like a congenital malformation. The pathogenesis of
these haemorrhages remains obscure and it is not clear
whether they arise before or after delivery. No light has
been thrown on the causes of abortion. Nevertheless this
monograph is of interest because so few investigations
of this kind have been undertaken.

S. J. STRICH

CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS AND ITS NEUROLOGICAL COMPLI-
CATIONS By B. H. Smith. (Pp. vii + 231; illustrated.
The well-known Thomas Monographs vary greatly in
quality, but this is one of the very best, and can be
warmly recommended. A difficult subject has been
handled with skill, good judgement, and clarity. Only a
gifted and astute clinician could have succeeded in
producing such a helpful and comprehensive study.

ZUKUNFT DER NEUROLOGIE (Future of Neurology)
Edited by H. G. Bammer. (Pp. xii + 262; illustrated.

This volume has been prepared as a tribute by over
40 neurologists from all parts of the world to Herr
Professor Dr. Georges Schaltenbrand on the occasion
of his 70th birthday. Most of the articles are in English
and some are of great interest.

THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BRAIN By S. A.
Sarkisov. (Pp. xxiii + 291; 158 figures. 93s.) American
If this volume is really an up-to-date account of current
work, it is disappointing to find that the brilliant Russian
Neurophysiological School of Pavlov is not really keeping up with current scientific advances in regard to brain mechanisms. It is astonishing, for example, to find so little reference to the exciting discoveries in recent years with regard to the physiology of memory.

SYNDROMES ARTÉRIELS ENCÉPHALIQUES By Georges Manigand. (Pp. viii + 155, 7 figures. 36.00 F.) L’Expansion: Paris. 1968. French neurologists seem to have special skills in relation to the identification of the clinical syndrome caused by the obstruction of each small artery in the brain. This book will be found a useful work of reference for the clinician who wishes to localize the lesion precisely.

MIND AS A TISSUE Edited by Charles Rupp. (Pp. x + 357; illustrated. $16.50.) Hoeber Medical Division, Harper and Row: New York. 1968. This collection of conference papers has no coherent framework, but it does include interesting experimental work on the effects of surgical excision or ECS on animals, and theoretical discussions of memory processes. The biochemical section is for the specialist, but the volume is possibly of more value to those psychiatrists who are concerned with the physiological basis of behaviour.


DEUTSCH-ENGLISCHES/ENGLISCH-DEUTSCHES WORTERBUCH FÜR ÄRZTE Vol. 1. Deutsch-Englisch. By F. Lejeune and Werner E. Bunjes. (Pp. xxiv + 459. DM 64.) Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1968. This is a wonderful new dictionary for doctors and has been compiled from the life-time experience and records of two leading authorities in the skills of accurate translation.

RADIOLOGY IN NEURO-OPTHALMOLOGY By G. Lombardi. (Pp. viii + 234; 167 figures. 106s.) Williams & Wilkins: Baltimore. (E. & S. Livingstone: Edinburgh agents.) 1967. At first sight it is surprising to read the title of this book for there are many aspects of neuro-opthalmology which are of no interest to radiology. However, there are important new techniques such as orthography and venography of the orbit, and the specialist will undoubtedly be glad to refer to this volume from time to time.

SYMPOSIUM ON ORAL SENSATION AND PERCEPTION Compiled and edited by J. F. Bosma. (Pp. ix + 360; illustrated. $18.50.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1967. As the neurological study of oral sensation is a somewhat neglected feature of the clinic, this collection of chapters should arouse considerable interest. For example, neurologists will learn with interest how to test oral stereognosis or how to appreciate the oral manifestations of dysdiadochokinesis.

EUROPEAN NEUROLOGY, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1968. Sub. $16.20 per annum. Published by S. Karger: Basel. This new journal of neurology is the continuation of Section B of Psychiatria et Neurologia (previously Monatsschrift für Psychiatrie und Neurologie). This will be published in English and aims 'to develop into a forum for all the neurologists of Europe'. There will be six issues in each year.

LEITFADEN DER NEUROLOGIE By F. Laubenthal and H. Schlack. (Pp. xii + 302; 77 figures. DM 29.70.) Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1967. This well-known introduction to neurology was first published in 1941 by F. Laubenthal and is now in this eighth edition, revised by a neurologist of a later generation. Attempts to modernize old textbooks are seldom very successful and it might have been better for Dr. Schlack to write a new book entirely by himself. Nevertheless, this is well done and the volume will continue to be popular.

THE VESTIBULAR SYSTEM AND ITS DISEASES Edited by R. J. Wolfson. (Pp. 557; illustrated. 96s.) University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia. 1966. Most neurologists find the vestibular system to be a puzzling affair and they will find this report of the Transactions of an International Symposium to be most helpful.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PATHOLOGY OF HYDROCEPHALUS By Dorothy S. Russell. Medical Research Council Special Report Series 265. (Pp. 152; illustrated. 45s.) Her Majesty's Stationery Office: London. 1967. Professor Dorothy Russell's work on hydrocephalus is well known to neurologists and was published in 1949 as a Special Report to the Medical Research Council. It has been out of print for 10 years, but in response to a persistent demand has now been reprinted with an additional later paper on hydrocephalus included as an appendix. This will be very welcome as the work is of great importance to all who deal with these problems.

DIE THALIDOMID-POLYNEURITES By Ellen Gibbels. (Pp. vii + 140; 4 figures, 47 tables. DM 27.00.) Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1968. Many practitioners regret that the alarming embryopathy caused by thalidomide in pregnant women led to the withdrawal of a valuable hypnotic drug for others. It is, however, probable that its popularity would soon have waned as the prevalence of peripheral neuropathy became more widely appreciated. A remarkable number of publications on this aspect, mainly German and British, testify to the importance of this toxic effect. Unfortunately, the recent upsurge of interest in the
detailed pathogenesis of neuropathies came when the drug was withdrawn from general use. In this short monograph the author has gathered together the extensive literature about the clinical features of the predominantly sensory neuropathy. The discussion on pathogenesis and histopathology is an abstract of opinions expressed by various authors, but does not add new material or reach satisfactory conclusions. Most workers postulate an enzyme block or competitive inhibition of a B-group vitamin, but final proof is absent. Even the question whether the lesion is a primary neuronal degeneration or segmental demyelination is undecided. Toxicologists still studying thalidomide with newer methods will find this a useful summary of the literature, but it is now of only historical interest to clinicians.

J. A. SIMPSON

BRITISH MEDICAL BULLETIN Vol. 25, No. 1, January 1969:
NEW ASPECTS OF HUMAN GENETICS. Scientific Editors:
C. E. Ford and Harry Harris. (40s.) Medical Department,
This excellent issue of the British Medical Bulletin has
been admirably planned by a committee headed by
Dr. W. M. Court-Brown. The 16 papers included are by
19 leading geneticists, clinical and population cytogenetists,
biochemical geneticists, and specialists in the
geneic aspects of blood-groups, haemoglobin, common
malformations and common disorders, as well as
thalassaemia, porphyria, and homocystinuria. An enormous
amount of important information and comment is
presented and will be widely welcomed and referred to.

BRAIN MECHANISMS UNDERLYING SPEECH AND LANGUAGE
Proceedings of a Conference held at Princeton, New
Jersey, 9-12 November 1965. Supported by a grant
from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases
(Pp. 261; illustrated. $7.75.) Grune and Stratton:
This Conference brought together in November 1965
many leaders of current thought concerning the physi-
ology of speech and language. For neurologists it will
suffice to mention, as contributors, names such as Hécaen,
Rosadini, Brenda Milner, Teuber, Sperry, Geschwind,
Ettlinger, Magoun, Benton, and Masland, for the high
quality and interest of this volume to be appreciated.

NEUROLOGICAL NURSING 2nd edition. By J. Marshall and
Jean Mair. (Pp. x + 174; 74 figures. 25s.) Blackwell
This is a useful volume for nurses to study and will be
found in most neurological wards. Figures 24, 25, and 26
are very indistinct. Figure 12 is out of date, for foam
packs are available to form the 'bales' and of course are
much better. This figure should also show support for the
patient's head.

PROGRESS IN NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY Vol. 2. Edited by
H. Krayenbühl, P. E. Maspes, and W. H. Sweet.
(Pp. x + 406; 104 figures, 31 tables. 170s.) Karger:

The second volume in this series deals with aspects of
intracranial tumours, largely of the glioma group. There
are chapters on the pathology and classification of
gliomas, tissue culture of gliomas, nervous system
tumours in animals, chemical composition of brain
tumours, immunological aspects and radiotherapy of
tumours, and a comparison of air studies, angiography,
and isotope scans in diagnosis. The editors state that
they had asked contributors to produce a critical sum-
mary of world literature on their subject and to leave
this with their own experience and that derived from
contacts with other workers. Some contributors have
satisfied this brief, but others have used their space to
put forward their own individual views at length. In the
chapter on pathology and classification of gliomas by
Zulch and Weschler, most of the space is devoted to a
statement of their particular views on this subject, often
with detailed consideration of histology which might be
tedious to the neurosurgeon. Some of the views put
forward by these authors are not widely accepted by
other neuropathologists and this disagreement is not
made sufficiently clear in the text.

The chapter on tissue culture in gliomas by Kersting
makes fascinating reading and is also a model of clear,
concise, and elegant writing. He has used the classifi-
cation put forward by Zulch and it is interesting to note
that his work largely supports this system of classifying
gliomas.

Chapters on chemical composition and metabolism in
brain tumours (P. E. Maspes and P. Paoletti) and on
immunology (L. C. Scheinberg and J. M. Taylor) do
provide a critical review of these subjects without the
interposition of very personal ideas. Both these subjects
seem to be in an early formative state and provide much
of interest but little of immediate practical value to the
surgeon.

The chapter on radiotherapy is also an objective
review of the present views on this form of therapy and
provides little that is new to the experienced clinician.
The same may be said of the chapter comparing the value
of air studies, angiography, and isotope scans in the
diagnosis of gliomas. This is dealt with in some detail and
gliomas in various situations described separately. It is
done very well and the information about various
isotopes is valuable. The conclusions are those reached by
most neurosurgeons from experience and add little to the
sum total of knowledge.

There is an interesting chapter on nervous system
tumours in animals; most of the known tumours in man
also occur in animals, though there are species differ-
ces and many tumours which cannot be easily classified in
human terms.

This book provides useful and modern views on the
pathology of nervous system tumours and will be a valu-
able reference work for some years to come. The illustra-
tions, which are numerous, are all excellent and the
bibliographies after each chapter both voluminous and
comprehensive. The outstanding chapter, both in content
and style, is that on tissue culture and this at least
should be read by all neurosurgeons and neuropath-
ologists.

BRODIE HUGHES
Book reviews

J. A. Simpson

*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1969 32: 168-170
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.32.2.168-b

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