
This is a most valuable presentation of the latest work, particularly on the mechanisms of migraine. 'Familiarity with the studies of Wolff and his co-workers is assumed' as an introduction to an authoritative chapter by H. Heyck (Berlin). This is followed by a remarkable chapter from research workers in Sydney on neural, humoral, and haematological researches in this field, which lead to the conclusion (p. 51) . . . 'It is now possible to build a tentative hypothesis of the mechanism of migraine . . .'.


This is a most valuable guide to the cytometry of cerebrospinal fluid and of effusions. It will be welcomed for its fine illustrations, and techniques in every laboratory of clinical pathology. In this new edition the text has been re-written and a large number of colour photographs have been added.

AKUTE HEMIPLEGIE UND SEMISYNDROME IM KINDESALTER

This monograph reports the clinical features of 114 cases of acute lesions of one cerebral hemisphere in children, with special reference to the angiographic findings. Arterial obstruction was often demonstrated, and the association of arteritis with nearby lymphadenitis is an important possibility.


This volume presents eight impressive and stimulating papers from a group of experts who are specialists in various branches of neurobiology—a magnificent tribute to Hungarian research and to the Pecs University Medical School which recently celebrated the 600 years anniversary of the foundation of the First Hungarian University. Neurologists will be specially interested in the studies concerning the physiological background to the motivation concerned with the formation of behavioural patterns, the positive physiological features which encourage sleep, and the organization of brain capillaries.

SOME INHERITED DISORDERS OF BRAIN AND MUSCLE

The proceedings of this Society are again devoted to neurological disorders. There are five papers on muscular diseases, four on cerebral lipidoses, one on Wilson’s disease, and three on general neurochemical topics. The papers range from the clinical through the histochemical to the purely chemical. Probably few readers will have adequate knowledge in each field, but all will profit from a careful study of these valuable papers. It is by no means a systematic text, and all papers stand on their own feet, but the collection merits a synoptic index which would assist later referral. A valuable practical comment from Great Ormond Street is that no rectal biopsy has been positive for lipidosis or leucodystrophy in any patient without dementia, a family history of progressive degenerative brain disease, or other evidence pointing towards such disease.

The proceedings have been published with commendable speed. It is unfortunate that reproduction of histology is not up to the publisher’s usual high standard.

J. A. SIMPSON

ATLAS OF MENTAL RETARDATION SYNDROMES: VISUAL DIAGNOSIS OF FACIES AND PHYSICAL FINDINGS

This volume presents photographs, many in colour, of the faces of patients suffering from over 80 disorders associated with mental subnormality. There is often a ‘family likeness’ between unrelated patients with the same disorder; this atlas is of great value in the diagnosis of such disorders, particularly when, as is so often the case, they are uncommon, and it can be warmly recommended. The (subsidized) price is low.

R. T. C. PRATT


As the foreword to this book says, ‘here we encounter a Handbuch in classic mould’. The numerous clear drawings, meticulously executed by the author himself, are indeed in the best tradition of German anatomical illustration. A small drawback is that to illustrate only one individual surgeon’s operative technique is to reduce the general usefulness of this type of book. Moreover, the prodigious cost of this, the first volume of two, will probably preclude its personal ownership in this country.


This is an excellent book and begins with the best account of the mechanisms of concussion that the reviewer has read. The emphasis is surgical, but always critical and sensible. In adults a high proportion of cases with traumatic anosmia have occipital injuries: this is not mentioned on p. 120 and it would be interesting to know if this observation is also applicable to children.


This small volume reports the proceedings of a symposium held in Lausanne in September 1967. The reader
may be disappointed to find that research in this field is not apparently being directed much towards the study of aetiology and preventio, but simply to the analysis of the established disease.

RECENT ADVANCES IN NEUROLOGY AND NEUROPSYCHIATRY

The appearance of the 8th edition of this regular series is a reminder of the debt all readers owe to the late Lord Brain. The book has been seen through the press by his son and by Dr. Marcia Wilkinson, and has valuable chapters by invited contributors, but it contains some of Lord Brain’s last writings on disorders of memory, otoneurology, disorders of cerebral circulation, and the carcinomatous neuromyopathies. It forms a welcome statement of some of the advances made since the last edition in 1962, but one is surprised to find only passing reference to low pressure hydrocephalus, no information on sub-acute panencephalitis or infection with slow viruses, and no recognition of the considerable advances made in the field of peripheral neuropathy. Carbamazepine, l-dopa, and the wide range of neurotropic drugs have never been discussed in this series. All neurologists, will, nevertheless, want to have this useful volume, but perhaps the time has come to give psychiatry its own volume in the series.

J. A. SIMPSON


This ambitious volume includes pages from nearly 50 contributors, but most of these consist merely of a collection of reported methods with little of the critical assessment one expects of an expert.

SOCIETY WITHOUT THE FATHER By Alexander Mitscherlich.

It would be foolish to look for the clarity of Hobhouse or Trotter in any contemporary discussion of some major problem of social psychology. It is, however, legitimate to wish that Professor Mitscherlich had disciplined the exposition of his interesting theme so that it was more taut and succinct. He is an experienced psycho-analyst, and brings the Freudian interpretative apparatus to bear on the behaviour of the German people. He discusses other modern societies, but his thoughtful analysis rests primarily on his knowledge of his compatriots, especially those whom he has treated psycho-analytically. His whipping boy is industrial mass society, in which he considers the father’s world is separated from the child’s, to the detriment of both. Mass society creates a multitude of ‘rival siblings’ enviously struggling against their neighbours, in barren competition. In contrast to the members of a paternalistic society, they are ‘fatherless’. The structure of family authority is upset, and the individual ‘grows up into an adult with no visible master, exercises anonymous functions, and is guided by anonymous functions’. Professor Mitscherlich points out that obedience has always played a prominent part in the formation of the German national character; at times, he says, this has clashed with an unrealistic attitude of demand. He regards the problem as one of cultural adaptation, and concludes that ‘society counts too easily on the domestication of man’.

AUBREY LEWIS


This volume contains the proceedings of a symposium organized by the Quebec Psychopharmacological Research Association in June 1967. The passage of 18 months before their publication in book form has robbed the papers of what slender value most of them possessed. Another unnecessary and expensive volume.


This volume contains lectures given at an Oxford Region postgraduate training course—on addiction (Willis), alcoholism (Edwards), behaviour therapy (Gelder), anxiety (Soddy), treatment of depression (Watt), biochemical aspects of depression (Shaw), treatment of schizophrenia (Letemendia), treatment of epilepsy (Taylor), drug metabolism (Parke), and clinical trials (Shepherd). All are lively, practical, and up to date, and the last three have an extra individuality that distinguishes them.

R. T. C. PRATT

SUBNORMAL MIND By A. K. Deb. (Pp. xi + 73; 18 figures, 8 tables. Rs. 4.00.) Chuckerverty, Chatterjee & Co: Calcutta. 1968.

This brief account of mental subnormality is designed for doctors, medical students, teachers, and parents. The medical aspects are accurately presented, a wide range of conditions being covered in summary form. For a book of this size and purpose the amount of space devoted to rarities is excessive, and no loss would be occasioned by their omission. The chapter on treatment, training, and management could well be greatly expanded in the next edition, since these aspects are of the greatest practical importance both in developed and developing countries.


About one half of this thorough-going review of the somatic treatments of schizophrenia is devoted to a bibliography of more than 3,000 references. A further 12 pages is taken up by a subject-index and a list of drugs and their proprietary names. The remaining text provides a comprehensive but insipid commentary which is more likely to be consulted than read by workers in this large area of therapy and research.
Book Reviews

J. A. Simpson

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