sophisticated neurological circles faced with a problem. In this edition it is clear that it is intended to provide a much more comprehensive reference work. At the time of his death Lord Brain had started on the revision, but the main work fell to Professor Walton. His task must have been difficult as he was required to change the purpose of the book while retaining the character of the original. He has performed this feat extremely well, especially in the new chapter on disorders of muscle, but will undoubtedly wish to impose more of his own progressive ideas in future editions.

The section on sensation leaves a lot unsaid; the cerebellum is pre-Eccles, and the instructions for confront perimeter perpetuate the standard description which defies the laws of physics. Modern neurology needs more reference material on CSF globulin and less about the Lange curve; and surely every neurologist should now know the elementary facts about the normal EEG. The section on the use of EEG, echo and scan in diagnosis of cerebral tumour is quite useless. A book with international circulation should not use proprietary names for drugs.

It is good to see mark VII of an old friend. It has abandoned humble clay. Will a future edition establish it in orbit? Professor Walton could do it, but if the book is tested by sampling areas of special interest it is clear that an advanced reference book requires multiple authorship.

J. A. SIMPSON


Previous editions of Professor Illingworth's book on infant and child development have been deservedly popular with paediatricians, and have contained much material of interest to those neurologists who are concerned with the diagnosis and management of neurological disorders in childhood. This new edition, like its predecessors, is notable for its clarity; it is well illustrated and each chapter ends with a list of references, many to papers and monographs which have been published since the third edition appeared. The book is arranged logically, it makes easy reading, and it is excellent value for money. The chapters on reflexes and reactions, on the assessment of the newborn, and on the diagnosis of cerebral palsy deserve special praise. Despite its comparative brevity, and one or two omissions, particularly in relation to inborn errors of metabolism which may be associated with mental retardation, the author has generally avoided over-simplification and excessive dogmatism and the book can be confidently recommended as a clear and simple review of a complex topic.

JOHN N. WALTON


This book, formerly by Strong and Elwyn, has reached its sixth edition because it so exactly meets the requirements of clinicians. The authors have selected their material to provide a reasonably comprehensive textbook for those medical students who read neuroanatomy as an elective subject in the new curricula, and have borne in mind the requirement of residency training programmes in neurology. British teaching is moving in the same direction—basic integrated programme with elective courses. This book is admirable for its purpose. A particular feature is its illustration of the anatomical basis of clinical syndromes.

Students who find difficulty naming spinal tracts will note that even Homer may nod (Figure 13-12 legend).

J. A. SIMPSON


This monograph is a follow-up study of head injured patients 25 years after injury. The cases are drawn from those treated in the Oxford Head Injury Centre during the second world war and comprise 97 patients who had localized injuries of the cerebral hemispheres. The injuries were graded according to the estimated amount of brain tissue loss, depth of wound, and localization in the hemisphere. They were all subjected to a battery of tests designed to test intelligence and problem solving, various verbal tasks, and visual pattern identification and spatial orientation. The results of these tests were then subjected to statistical analysis.

The results, in brief, tended to confirm established theory concerning cerebral hemisphere function. The group did not show any intellectual loss or, indeed, deviation from a normal control group. Most left hemisphere patients showed some verbal defect, although this was usually not apparent clinically, and right hemisphere lesions showed defects in visual pattern identification and spatial orientation.

Brain injuries are not ideal cases for assessing localized cerebral function, for although areas of gross and localized damage can be estimated, there is no means of identifying the amount of general cerebral damage that always occurs in such injuries. Nevertheless, this work has filled a gap in providing information on a closely controlled test process, and will serve as a reference source for all future work on head injuries. The work is nicely produced and clearly written and should be read by all concerned in the treatment of head injured patients.

BRODIE HUGHES


Autogenic training has been defined as 'a deliberate effort of will directed upon one's own psychic and somatic life, through first inducing a change in consciousness and then, through auto-suggestion, a state of "complete inward self-relaxation"'. It bears an obvious resemblance to the techniques of Yoga and has attracted some attention, especially in the German-speaking world, following the publication of J. H. Schultz's book on the subject in 1932. These three very expensive volumes are part of an expanded American edition of the original text. The first volume is concerned with methods; the
second with medical applications, from blindness to biliary disorders; the third with psychotherapeutic applications, from alcoholism to absenteeism. On the basis of the evidence presented the uncommitted reader is unlikely to be persuaded of the value of the procedures or to expect much more from the remaining three volumes in the series.


This record of symposia held in Marseilles in 1966 has the usual characteristics of the breed. It contains much repetition, opinion confused with fact, and incomplete coverage of the subject, but gives access to many expert opinions while work is still in progress. The sections are of varying quality. The first, on 'generalized epilepsies of functional, metabolic, or genetic nature', contains little new material and, like the second section on 'the physiopathogenesis of generalized epilepsies of organic nature', shows a swing away from the centrencephalic concept among European workers, but an alarming confusion between aetiology and localization in the classification of seizures. Part 3 (the neurophysiological basis of generalized epilepsies) is much more rewarding and is strongly recommended. A discussion on nomenclature is not helpful, but a final chapter by Jasper is full of ideas for further development.

It is unfortunate that it has taken so long to publish these symposia. Editorial work is poor, despite lavish production. Translations are adequate if not elocutious, but no language contains the barbarism 'phenomenae'. This is a book for the specialist.

J. A. SIMPSON

PROGRESS IN MENTAL HEALTH Edited by Hugh Freeman. (Pp. xiv+346; illustrated; Churchill: London. 1969. 60s.).

A typical report of conference proceedings is like a notice-board hung with posters announcing what the contributors are up to. Participants gather for all kinds of devious purposes, but evidently feel the need for respectability. Hence the brief conference report which, alas, is all that remains for posterity to gather up.

The present volume is better than most such ventures. Of the numerous papers presented to the 7th International Congress on Mental Health in London in August 1968, 50 have been selected for publication, and the galaxy of great names is certainly impressive. Since the meeting was organized by the World Federation for Mental Health the emphasis is less on purely clinical matters than on problems of the promotion of psychiatric care. An interesting change of emphasis from earlier discussions is detectable: instead of advocating rather hazy concepts of mental health, energy is now directed to achieving an extension of psychiatric services. Ignorance, apathy, and ideologies are identified as the main obstacles, the attack on which is to be guided by scientific studies; examples reported in the volume include, for example, epidemiological investigations of attitudes to community services for the mentally ill.

Other sections present useful contributions on the themes of childhood disorder, social psychiatry, professional education, experiments in service organization, and the nature of social conflict. The last of these may or may not be science but is certainly exciting reading. A final section is devoted to theoretical problems, with high-quality papers by Margaret Mead, John Bowlby, Paul Halmos, and Sir Dennis Hill.

All in all, a miscellany for which the editor deserves congratulations.

NORMAN KREITMAN


In 1962 the Ministry of Health advised regional hospital boards that facilities for the treatment of alcoholism in special units should be available in every region. The Alcoholism Unit at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, which was established by Dr. Henry Walton in 1963, has served as a model for several others.

This book derives largely from the authors' experiences of treating alcoholics on the unit, and from research accomplished under its aegis. There is an excellent introduction by Dr. Walton, which gives a concise yet comprehensive account of the principles of management and their application in practice. This is followed by useful chapters describing in detail the treatment of alcoholism in specialized clinics, the characteristics of, and the prognosis for alcoholics. Other topics covered are research methodology, young alcoholics, and suicide.

Medical and nursing staff appointed to an alcoholism unit will find this book useful preliminary reading. It can also be recommended to others, whose work brings them in contact with alcoholics. It gives them the indications for treatment in such a unit and a realistic view of the results, which can be achieved.

C. S. MELLOR


This very expensive book is the inaugural edition of an annual publication. It lists more than 10,000 books in all fields of medicine classified according to specialty. Short summaries are apparently based on the publishers' blurbs rather than on critical reviews. Useful for libraries only.

NOTICE

3RD ASIAN AND OCEANIAN CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGY

Bombay, 29 November to 5 December 1971. Subjects: stereotaxy and electro-physiological advances in neurology; familial and genetic disorders of nervous system; neuropharmacology and uses of new drugs in neurology; vascular disorders of CNS; nutritional and other tropical disorders of nervous system. Details: Dr. Gajendra Sinh, The Neurological Society of India, 534 Sandhurst Bridge, Bombay 7.
Book reviews

J. A. Simpson

*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1970 33: 551-552
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.33.4.551-c

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