
THIS, the ninth volume of the series edited by the American A.R.N.M.D., is both larger and fuller of fresh material than its predecessors, and forms a valuable contribution to the literature of the sympathetic system. Its thirty-five chapters are divided into five main sections dealing with morphology, physiology, recent experiment, clinical investigation, and therapy. In the earlier sections there is much new matter on the relationship of the hypothalamic nuclei to the sympathetic system. Bard's anatomical studies, and the experimental work of Beattie, Brow and Long are noteworthy contributions to this subject. In the sections dealing with recent experimental work there is new material which it is impossible to summarize. But special interest attaches to the chapter by Moore in which he shows that it is possible to remove the sympathetic ganglia completely and the chromaffin system almost completely without producing any gross pathological change in the animal. Ranson's exhaustive experiments on the relation of the dorsal roots to muscle tone are also of special interest in that they controvert to a considerable extent the teaching of Sherrington on muscle tonus.

There is comparatively little fresh material on the clinical side, if we except a suggestive paper by Duke on heat and cold sensitiveness; but the articles by Brown and Adson, Kerr and White in the therapeutic section give a very satisfactory summary of the results so far obtained in various affections by sympathectomy and paravertebral block of the sympathetic chain.

The book in fact contains much new and suggestive material which no neurologist or psychiatrist can afford to ignore. For many of his problems are elucidated by recent researches on the vegetative nervous system; and while the application of the results obtained from these to the relief of human disease is still in the experimental stage, the possibilities of advance in this direction are immense.

J. G. G.


In his foreword the editor says that these volumes 'should be considered to some extent as the neurological representative of the series of books on cytology published by Hoeber.' But they go beyond the scope of that series for they deal not only with normal but also with pathological cytology, and even with broader subjects such as the structure of the pineal and pituitary