REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS


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
bodies and the retina. The third volume indeed almost leaves the subject of cytology aside, to discuss the various forms of tumour, maldevelopment, and inflammatory reaction to which the nervous system is subject; but even in this volume the subject is dealt with largely from the narrower standpoint of cellular structure. Thus the volumes cannot be considered as an exhaustive treatise on neuropathology. Indeed they make no pretence to this. But their value to the neuropathologist is scarcely lessened thereby, as they provide a foundation for his investigations such as has never before been included in one book. Many of the chapters are written by acknowledged authorities and embody their own pioneer work. Continental workers such as Agduhr, Bielschowsky, Boeke, del Rio Hortega, Ariens Kappers, Masson and Nageotte discuss subjects which they have made their own, but many of the articles by American authors are on an equally high plane.

The value of the book is greatly enhanced by the wealth of fine illustrations. To this especially must be attributed the high cost, which we regard as unfortunate, in that this is a book for slow and careful reading rather than for cursory reference in a library. But works on cytology have a permanent value, dealing as they do with carefully observed and well-established facts, and the present work contains so much fresh material that its position is assured for many years to come.

J. G. G.


Dr. R. Mourgue has been occupied for a number of years with problems circling round and arising out of the question of hallucinosis, and this erudite and stimulating book embodies the results of his studies. Convinced that academic psychology will never provide a solution of the nature of hallucinosis, Dr. Mourgue asserts that, in the first place, the latter does not depend on the intensity of the image phenomena, nor on disaggregation of personality in any simple sense; he has found, however, that in abnormal perception (hallucination) much depends on complex motor attitudes, through which objectivity is determined by reference to the body. Normal perception is based on external sensory excitation; hallucination is based on motor attitudes that have to do with projection—it is a ‘psychosomatic’ phenomenon. Dr. Mourgue then proceeds to argue that true hallucinations originate in disorder of the organo-vegetative side of the personality; this system is the ‘base physique de l’esprit.’ Along with the organo-vegetative factor goes activity on the part of the corresponding motor mechanisms of sensorial adaptation. Such interpretations of the phenomena, however, are
Cytology and Cellular Pathology of the Nervous System
J. G. G.

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