Leitfaden der neurologischen Diagnostik: eine Differentialdiagnose aus dem führenden Symptom für praktische Ärzte und Studierende.
A considerable number of books on neurological semiology and differential diagnosis compete in the market: their individual size and range depend largely on the particular clientele for which they cater. Dr. Kurt Singer’s compendium is of moderate dimensions though its contents are wide in scope; the language is simple; the data are well marshalled and arranged. For example, successive chapters are devoted to disorders of gait, muscular twitching, spasm, tremor, neuralgia, headache, vertigo, unconsciousness, disorders of speech. The disadvantage of this particular method is that little allowance is made for the combinations of symptoms or of symptom-groups frequently encountered in clinical cases; when a particular symptom is followed through its various appearances it is found to run across, as it were, a number of diseased states; thus while it itself is given an adequate exposition this is to some extent at the expense of synthetic study of the clinical entities which form the neurologist’s material. The fact that Dr. Singer’s semiology is appearing in a second edition is doubtless to be taken as indicating appreciation of its merits.

We gave Dr. Rademaker’s important monograph a long review in our pages (this Journal, vol. v, p. 283) at the time of its original appearance in Dutch, expressing incidentally the hope that it would subsequently appear in a language with which a greater number of neurologists and physiologists are likely to be more familiar. The hope has been realised, for there can be no doubt in its German garb the volume will become more useful and usable. It is practically a replica of the Dutch edition, although the records of a few additional experiments on destruction of the substantia nigra are included. The importance of mesencephalic activities in their relation to posture and muscle tonus needs no emphasising; to understand them study of the patiently acquired information richly provided by Dr. Rademaker’s monograph is essential.

Dr. Peron’s Thèse on the syndromes of the cauda equina (wound cases excepted) constitutes an excellent contribution to a subject of considerable
intrinsic interest and practical importance. Cauda lesions are common enough in ordinary neurological experience, and their pathology not a little variable; distinction between conus, cauda equina, and radicular (extraspinal) conditions is often far from easy, notwithstanding the systematisation of knowledge in respect of differential criteria; hence the indispensability of the newer diagnostic devices comprised by lumbar puncture, radiology, and lipiodol technique. The last, in particular, is fully discussed and illustrated by the author.

The classification adopted is as follows: (1) complete lumbosacral type (lesion extending from L2 to S5 roots); (2) middle lumbosacral type (L5 to S5); (3) pure sacral type (S2 to S5); (4) partial types: (a) hemisyndromes; (b) upper lumbar type with conservation of sacral roots.

On the pathological side tumours, bony compression, neurosyphilis and local meningeal reactions are fully exemplified. There is a good bibliography. Though some pathological conditions (for example, osteitis deformans, caries sicca senilis) are not apparently referred to, and the congenital group of spina bifida occulta, hydromyelia, etc., not mentioned differentially, and though references to some further English contributions might have found a place in the text or bibliography, this monograph is well worthy of the attention of the neurologist.

S. A. K. W.

Meddelelser fra Universitetets Psykiatriske Laboratorium og Kommunehospitallets Nervesindsygeafdeling, København. Volume iii. Edited by AUGUST WIMMER, Professor of Psychiatry in the University of Copenhagen. 1925.

In the third volume of these Danish Reports are to be found some 37 individual communications, by various authors, notably Drs. Wimmer, Axel Neel, Schroeder and Krabbe, which have appeared in different journals in the course of the last three years. One or two are in English, a few more in French or German, but the majority, as is natural, are written in Danish. Were these to be furnished with a brief summary of their contents in one or other of the better-known languages their usefulness would be enhanced. The volume contains some fine clinical and pathological papers, notably those on extrapyramidal syndromes by Professor Wimmer and on various aspects of epidemic encephalitis by the same writer and by Dr. Neel.


The seventh volume of this well-known and useful series comprises some 28 papers by various members of the neurological staff at Harvard, which have been published in the years from 1922 to 1925, and are here collected. A number of them have already been abstracted in this Journal. The reprints are of value to all students of the diseases of the nervous system.
Reviews and Notices of Books

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