Reviews and Notices of Books.


DR. ALLAN PARSONS has accomplished an eminently utilitarian if somewhat tedious task in collecting and analysing the data obtained from an extended series of inquiries concerning the after-histories of patients who have had an attack of epidemic encephalitis. It is based on information received in respect of no fewer than 3,500 persons—forming about one-fifth of the total number of notifications between January 1919 and December 1926. Amid so much highly complex analysis and synthesis it is convenient to be able to abstract a general conclusion, which can be expressed as follows: If say, 100 cases are investigated three years after the primary illness, then of their subjects 25 will be found to have survived without serious consequence; 35 will have died; and 40 will have become more or less disabled in mind or body, or both.

The sequelæ of the disease are classified for clinical and statistical purposes in a practical fashion, and tables are given from which the comparative frequencies of these can be ascertained. A loose division into physical sequelæ, mental changes, and moral effects, can be adopted. Of 995 patients under the age of 16 at time of onset or of notification 65 (6-5 per cent.) developed Parkinsonism, a percentage almost identical with that among 1,483 patients over the age of 16 at the time of onset. Among the 995 mentioned above, 181 (18-2 per cent.) subsequently developed changes of character, but only 5-7 per cent. of the 1,483 over 16 did so. But when a series of 925 patients of all ages was taken, no fewer than 334 (36-1 per cent.) were found to have become Parkinsonians, and according to Dr. Parsons this figure is probably an understatement, for it does not include patients who died of Parkinsonian complications. In a series of 31 cases of Parkinsonism 19 (61 per cent.) of the patients were under the age of 30. Much useful information will be found in this Report on the average course and progress of these types of case, and much, too, on the topics of the mental and moral sequelæ.

The question of care and treatment, institutional and otherwise, also receives considerable attention.
Handbuch der Neurologie des Ohres. Edited by Prof. Dr. G. Alexander, Prof. Dr. O. Marburg, and Dr. H. Brunner. II Band, 1 Hälfte. With 155 illustrations, some in colours. Berlin and Vienna: Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1928. Pp. 720. Price Mk. 75; bound, Mk. 81.

On previous occasions we have reviewed other volumes in this superb encyclopædia of neurological otology, which has set a high standard in regard to both comprehensiveness and erudition. The part now issued deals with a series of special subjects. The first is that of the involvement of the fifth and seventh cranial nerves in affections of the external and middle ear, being concerned mainly with otogenic facial palsy and with otogenic facial neuralgia. A somewhat neglected subject is that of congenital malformations of the ear, with accompanying neural phenomena, and this is well handled by Dr. O. Benesi. Some thirty pages are assigned to deaf-mutism. The condition of the auditory apparatus in various heredodegenerations such as Friedreich's disease, amaurotic family idiocy, tuberous sclerosis and so forth is fully described in a section which embodies much useful information.

A considerable part of the volume is taken up with the question of trauma of the ear and its connexions; commotio cerebralis, fracture of the base, explosions, and compressed air affections, are among those dealt with, as is also that of direct wounds. All of these sections reach a high level of medical writing and are replete with valuable information collected from widely scattered sources. Professor Kobrak describes the affections of the blood-vessels of the labyrinth, and Professor Stiefler the auditory semiology of vascular disease in brainstem and cerebellum.

The printing is beautifully clear, on fine paper, and the diagrams and photographs are well reproduced. This encyclopædia is one of the handsomest and best productions of the Viennese school of medicine.


This is a French translation of von Economo's small book on the cell structure of the cortex. The only departure that the translator has made is in adding paragraph headings in leaded type, a change which increases the value of the book as a work of reference. The book begins with a description of the main cortical types and of their distribution in the various regions of the cortex. One hundred and nine types are described, but they are grouped in five main forms which are easily distinguished on histological grounds. He also adopts a new system of nomenclature for the various areas, retaining an indication of the lobe, frontal, temporal, occipital, etc., by a preliminary letter F, T, O, followed by letters A to H which indicate the anatomical position in the lobe. Thus we get, e.g., P, E, m, which is equivalent to fifth parietal area, type magnocellularis.
The main cortical areas are then more exactly described with the help of 46 full-page microphotographic plates. The book should be of great value to those studying the pathology of the cortex and to the more serious students of the anatomy of the nervous system.

J. G. G.


This little book describes two new colloidal reactions for the cerebrospinal fluid, the bi-colour benzoin and bi-colour mastic reactions. In these, an acid and a basic dye are added to the resinous suspension, acid fuchsin and light green to the benzoin and acid-fuchsin and naphthal B-green to the mastic. Shellac has been employed by Marchionini as an alternative to the gum mastic. The advantages claimed for these reactions are increased sensitivity and ease of reading.

Other well known colloidal reactions, such as Kafka’s paraffin reaction, the “normo-mastic” of Jakobsthal and Kafka, and the Sicard-Haguenau modification of the colloidal gold reaction are described and the result obtained by the various reactions discussed.

The book is illustrated with several colour plates and contains numerous tables. It forms a useful addition to the literature of the cerebrospinal fluid.

J. G. G.

Die Psychischen Heilmethoden für ärztliches Studium und Praxis.

This is a comprehensive systematic account by six authors of the principles and practice of the chief forms of psychotherapy in use at the present day. Birnbaum writes a general and theoretical introduction, Jolowitz deals with suggestion therapy, Heyer with hypnotic methods, von Hattingberg with psychoanalytic and related methods, Wexberg with Adlerian principles and practice and Kronfeld with “Psychagogics.” The theoretical expositions that precede each part are necessarily of a summary nature, but they are for the most part clear and simple. The chief differences in the viewpoints of the various schools are clearly set forth and the book should form a valuable groundwork for the practitioner who wishes to include in his therapeutic armamentarium, psychological resources of various kinds. Experience alone and not even a comprehensive work of this sort can teach him in what particular case to apply the appropriate method.
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