

disorders one has the impression that psychotherapy is the treatment of choice, for E.C.T. receives scant mention. It comes somewhat as a surprise, therefore, to read further on in the same chapter that the authors feel that they can dispense with instructions about the maintenance of the physical health of depressed patients because "the advent of shock therapy . . . makes patients' symptoms evolve so rapidly . . ."

The literature surveyed is almost exclusively American: on the subject of post-traumatic syndromes, for instance, one reads with astonishment that "according to verbal reports from the Office of Scientific Research and Development", the duration of the period of unconsciousness following head injury is the best guide to the severity of the post-traumatic changes. In these days of fast travel, it should not take 23 years for Ritchie Russell's work to cross the Atlantic.

All in all, a very uneven book, likely to confuse rather than educate.

The Clinical Examination of Patients with Organic Cerebral Disease. By R. Klein and W. Mayer-Gross. (Pp. xiii + 96; 9 figures. 15s.) London: Cassell. 1957.

The examination of the patient with organic cerebral disease often falls between the two stools of psychiatry and neurology. While the neurologist is interested in dysphasia and its ramifications, he is often uninterested in or ignorant of confusional states and their content. The psychiatrist on the other hand may recognize clearly enough the confusional state and assign a correct psychogenesis to some of its contents while missing the element of agnosia or apraxia that is playing a part in the clinical picture. It is just such a borderland that this small book deals with. Its systematic approach will be useful to both neurologists and psychiatrists who do not meet a great many of such cases, although those who see many may feel that many aspects really require rather fuller treatment than is here afforded. It can be recommended as an introduction to the subject, particularly to students for the Diploma of Psychological Medicine.

Pneumoencephalography. By E. Graeme Robertson. (Pp. xxi + 482; 34 plates, 209 figures. 110s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1957.

This book is the third to be written on air encephalography by this author since he became interested in the subject over 20 years ago. He is well known as one of the originators of modern techniques of air encephalography which have greatly increased its safety and decreased its discomforts. Other workers have tended to simplify the technique and have adapted it to investigate patients with raised intracranial pressure, a practice which the author himself deprecates.

This volume contains clear descriptions of the author's technique of air encephalography, of the normal brain anatomy disclosed by air injections, and of his theories on the mechanism of ventricular filling. Much of those

sections appeared in previous volumes, but their reproduction is welcome because copies of the author's first book ("Encephalography") have been unobtainable in this country for several years. This present book also contains excellent descriptions of the abnormal conditions likely to be encountered, including injuries, vascular disease, congenital lesions, and diseases in childhood. The section on space-occupying lesions shows the reasons for the various abnormal signs produced by masses in different situations, rather than giving mere lists of changes. The author pays particular attention to information obtained from deformity of the basal cisterns in all his descriptions. There is also a very useful chapter on the causes of failure to obtain air-filling of the ventricles and on the remedies to be applied.

The book is well printed and is profusely illustrated with clearly coloured plates and excellent radiographs. It should become a standard text-book on the subject of air encephalography and should appeal to all those who are interested in neuroradiology.

Tranquillizing Drugs. Arranged and edited by Harold E. Himwich. (Pp. viii + 205; 32 figures.) London: Bailey Bros. & Swinfen. 1957.

This small volume represents the outcome of a symposium on tranquillizing drugs arranged jointly by the American Psychiatric Association and the American Physiological Society. Experimental investigations on animals of some of the electrophysiological effects are reported. Clinical aspects of the drugs, especially in the treatment of psychotic states, are also described, and some problems of dosage and side-effects are mentioned. The book will be of interest to psychiatrists and neurologists wishing to know something of applied biochemistry in this field.

Correction

In this paper, "The Entry of Radiosodium and of Bromide into Human Cerebrospinal Fluid" (*J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiat.*, 20, 79) by R. B. Bourdillon, M. Fischer-Williams, Honor V. Smith, and K. B. Taylor, Figs. 1 and 4 have been transposed, though the legends are in the correct positions. Thus the legend under the present Fig. 1 explains the graph shown as Fig. 4 and *vice versa*. In addition, the legend to Fig. 1 should read: Effects of age in patients with *no* abnormal physical signs.

Societa' Italiana di Neuro Chirurgia

The Societa' Italiana di Neuro Chirurgia will hold its ninth congress in Florence on April 24 and 25, 1958. Two subjects will be discussed:—

- (1) Cerebral abscesses and suppurative encephalitis
- (2) Cervical discal herniations and cervical spondylosis

Further information may be obtained from the Secretary (Dr. Giulio Morello, Via Celoria 11, Milan, Italy).