principally used on blow-pipe darts. These darts were in themselves insufficient to do much damage, but when poisoned they enabled smaller animals and birds to be killed in silence. They were almost as efficient as shot guns, and as they did not scare the game a number of animals could be killed from a single flock. Spears, arrows, and weapons of war were not usually poisoned with curare.

The remainder of the book gives an extensive account of the pharmacological and physiological aspects of curare and other relaxants, and deals more briefly with the clinical applications. Some neurologists will be surprised to find that curare is recommended both in parkinsonism and in poliomyelitis.


Dr. Minski's small text-book continues to provide the essentials of psychiatry in a brief and concentrated form. It has been generally revised and brought up to date. There is a précis of the findings of the Royal Commission on the law relating to mental illness and mental deficiency and tranquillizing drugs are also discussed. The book can be recommended as a concise introduction to psychiatry.


This volume contains the proceedings of the Second and Third Scientific Conferences of the Brain Research Foundation; and presumably the inclusion in one volume is a matter of convenience rather than similarity of subject. The first half of the book deals with the action of amines in brain function and behaviour. The second half of the book is the report of the papers on the treatment of hysparythmia with A.C.T.H. These conferences took place in January and March, 1958.


This bibliography contains references to over 400 papers published in the English language which are concerned with the problems of congenital defects, perinatal death, etc., and will be useful to the many who are taking an increasing interest in this subject at the present time.


These four volumes have now been published and report the Proceedings of this Congress. Participants of the Congress who have not received their copy should write immediately to M. Bleuler, Burghölzi, Zürich 8. The Proceedings may also be purchased by writing to Art. Institut Orell Füssli A.G. Zeitschriften-Abteilung, Dietzingerstrasse 3, Zürich 3, at the price of Swiss francs 50.

Books Received

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received)


Second International Congress of Neurological Surgery

The Administrative Council of the World Federation of Neurological Societies will hold the second international neurosurgical congress in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., from October 14 to 20, 1961, at the Statler Hotel. The business meeting of the Executive Committee, which is composed of two delegates from each of the member-societies, will be held on Saturday, October 14, 1961. The Federation is presently composed of 25 national neurosurgical societies representing 50 nations. Registration and reception will be on Sunday, October 15, 1961, and the scientific sessions will be held from Monday, October 16, to Friday, October 20.

Four morning sessions will be devoted to symposia on the following topics:

I. Radioactivity and heavy radiation particles in neurosurgery

II. Space-occupying intracranial lesions

III. Re-evaluation of surgery in the treatment of pain

IV. A. Biology of the nervous system.

B. Hydrocephalus

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