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The author states that the subject of this book is to serve the needs of those doctors and students who require to know not only the essentials of neurology but to know them thoroughly. More than a third of it is devoted to methods of history-taking and examination, and the discussion of major disorders of function, including unconsciousness, epilepsy, and headache. Part II comprises disorders of anatomical regions ranging from intracranial tumour to disorders of muscle, and is followed by sections dealing with infections, and diffuse and systemic disorders. The final section deals with psychological aspects of neurology, and the introduction to this chapter presents with admirable clarity the need for a balanced approach to the problems of psychological illness, taking into account the unity of brain and mind.

The book is comprehensive to an extent that should well satisfy the needs of those for whom it is written, and although the account of many diseases is brief the essentials are lucidly presented. It is inevitable that in reading a work of this kind the reviewer should find cause for dispute, without which indeed the book would be a dull one. It is in fact the opposite, provocative of thought and question. To take a few points, the diagram of the cutaneous distribution of the trigeminal nerve includes more than the upper half of the auricle within the territory of the third division, whereas the usual finding after sensory root section is anaesthesia only of the anterior strip of the article, and anterior wall of the auditory meatus. Of arteriovenous malformations in the brain it is said that they may be associated with a facial naevoid—the Sturge-Weber syndrome—but the cerebral angiomata in this syndrome is not of the arteriovenous type.

In the discussion of head injuries the time-honoured distinction is made between concussion and contusion, without reference to recent experimental and pathological observations indicating that irreversible damage to nerve cells and fibres may occur in the absence of bruising or vascular lesions. Meralgia paraesthetica is attributed to construction of the lateral cutaneous nerve as it passes through the fascia lata of the thigh. Many neurologists have abandoned this interpretation in favour of that originally proposed by Stookey, namely, angulation and compression of the nerve at its emergence from the pelvis.

These, however, are minor criticisms of a book which provides in an attractive form a sound introduction to the principles and practice of neurology and will encourage the student to think for himself.


This, the sixth edition of a small monograph on neurological diagnosis as applied to the central nervous system, concentrates upon the techniques of history taking and physiological examination as befits the requirements of senior medical students and house officers. It purposely excludes considerations of neuroradiology and electroencephalography, but it gives sufficient details of relevant neuroanatomy and neurophysiology to make the reasons for the clinical examinations understandable. It is well illustrated, and it includes many well-known diagrams such as those of central nervous system pathways, which have been copied with acknowledgments from standard reference books. In most respects it has been brought up to date, as for instance in a chart of the segmental sensory distribution of various spinal nerves attributed to Dr. Percival Bailey. A minor blemish therefore is the incorporation in figure 21 of the electrically excitable cortex on the lateral surface of the brain according to Foerster, showing a representation of motor and sensory functions on either side of the central fissure with the foot and leg areas located on the lateral surface rather than on the mesial surface in the great longitudinal fissure. In this connexion the reproduction of Penfield's homunculi might have proved a wiser choice. However, this book can be recommended for its intended audience.


This book, by a neurosurgeon, is an attempt to make it easy for students and general practitioners to recognize organic neurological disease and to reach a correct diagnosis. It offers little that is not part of normal undergraduate neurological teaching and the method of presentation makes it a difficult book to read.


This monograph is based upon a personal study of seven patients, whose records are described in detail. A chapter is devoted to the neuropathological findings and a short one to the E.E.G. and E.Co.G. findings. The authors have made a careful study of the literature, and they indicate in their valuable list of references those which describe cases of true Sturge-Weber syndrome. From their studies they consider that the essential criteria are a facial naevoid and a leptomeningeal angiomatosis. Out of 787 published case records, 257 fulfilled these criteria. Cerebral calcification may not be evident radiologically before the age of 2, and if diagnosis needs confirmation, an examination of the cortex through a
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small inspection craniotomy may be necessary. Epilepsy has occurred in nearly every published case, and the authors draw attention to its serious significance. It usually begins in infancy, often as an episode of status, and mental deterioration sets in sooner or later. Operation was carried out in five of the authors' seven patients, the indications being to control epilepsy, to diminish behaviour disorders, and to improve educability. The authors make a good claim for early operation, for they point out that the lesion appears 'to be unique in its epileptogenic property' and these patients often need admission to an institution in later childhood and usually die in status at a relatively early age. This book is a valuable contribution to the subject, and will be read with profit by paediatricians, neurologists, and neurosurgeons. The material is presented so as to emphasize the variety of problems in embryology, neurochemistry, and epilepsy. The production is excellent, although by modern standards the book is not expensive.


Recently developed techniques make it possible to place electrodes accurately in deeply placed brain structures for purposes of recording or stimulation. Whether these methods will improve the surgical treatment of epilepsy is doubtful, but they are certainly adding greatly to knowledge of the functions of the limbic system and other primitive organizations which help to provide the drive to live and do. These pages provide a useful account of present knowledge in this startling field.


The new edition of Dr. Brazier's book incorporates some recent developments in neurophysiology, and some portraits of famous physiologists. The treatment throughout is selective but uncritical with a minimum of discussion. Physiologists derive their knowledge from experiments on a number of animal species, and it is unfortunate that in presenting the facts and figures there is often no mention of the species from which they were derived. The book is, however, clearly written and well illustrated and can be read with advantage by all students beginning the study of neurophysiology.


This book is devoted to the way in which radiology can help in the investigation of epileptics. Radiographs of the skull, air-contrast pictures, and cerebral angiograms are all considered in relation to various diseases of known and unknown aetiology with epilepsy as a presenting feature. The use of radio-active isotopes is also discussed. The book is a useful source of references to this subject.


'A medical missionary on furlough . . . from Peking, China . . . my missionary zeal was abruptly transformed from the Chinese to the epileptic'. Thus Williams G. Lennox writes of himself (p. 735): the year was 1921 and from that time until his death a few months ago he thought, read, and wrote epilepsy. His life was truly dedicated to the betterment of the lot of the epileptics. This book, in part autobiographical, should be his last memorial.

Certainly it is very personal, having somewhat the air of a commonplace book, containing quotations at length culled from many sources, brief biographies of authors, living and dead, case histories in plenty, anything, in fact, relevant, or sometimes irrelevant, which has appealed to the senior author. The whole is loosely held together by the homely phrases of this kind, devoted man. Lennox is at his best on the therapeutic and social problems of the epileptic, weakest on the physiological background of epilepsy, in which field the wider experience of the junior author might have been expected to lead to a clearer exposition. The E.E.G. is also discussed solely from the idiosyncratic viewpoint of Emma and Fred Gibbs, partners with Lennox in much of his early work.

Such a storehouse as this cannot fail to give pleasure and profit to the reader, even though it may exasperate by its digressions, its diffuseness, and its repetitions. It is too large a book to be read as a whole (though divided in two volumes it is, in fact, a single book, which is emphasized by the absence of an index to the first volume) and as a reference work it is unsatisfactory because the looseness of its structure demands compensation by a meticulous index, which it has not got.


Over half this monograph from Stockholm is devoted to a review of the earlier literature on the subject and over 200 references are given in the bibliography. With this background, the author has presented his study of mental symptoms in 90 personally examined cases of temporal lobe epilepsy (16 of which turned out to have benign temporal glioma), and in a further series of 252 cases of verified temporal glioma collected from the files of the neurological clinic of Sarafmer laseretten.

The necessity for accurate definition of terms has been recognized and the clinical, electrophysiological, psychophysiological, and statistical findings have been carefully expressed. One of the main conclusions is that mental symptoms, particularly intellectual impairment, of both verbal and non-verbal functions, were more evident in all groups in which the dominant temporal lobe was involved, being most pronounced in cases of tumour
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Unfortunately, no record of detailed examination of the permanent speech disorders in the cases with glioma of the dominant temporal lobe is given, although the problems of paroxysmal (ictal) asaphia are carefully considered.

The section on handedness and 'brainedness' (the term used for the laterality of the dominant hemisphere) is excellent. The degrees of left- and right-handedness and the relationships with handedness (pertaining to the temporal lobe only) are fully discussed. The author's figures show that the left hemisphere was dominant in 50% of left handers, and that there was no clear evidence that the two hemispheres were equipotential in respect of language.

This monograph is well written in English and gives a useful account of the subject, even though the effect of temporal lobectomy on the mental symptoms and function is left for a later paper.


This study deals with six patients with epilepsy in whom Earl Walker implanted electrodes in the brain. The patients, some of whom are described as having Jacksonian epilepsy, are well studied and documented. As the electrodes are introduced without stereotaxic apparatus, the finer localization must remain doubtful. Studies of the electric activity in various parts of the cortex, the white matter, the caudate and amygdaloid nuclei, the thalamus, etc., are reported. Recordings were also obtained during spontaneous and artificially induced fits.

While the number of cases is too small to come to generally valid conclusions, the findings are interesting and the book contains a useful and very complete survey of the literature.


The State University of New York held a series of symposia, and the lectures given then with three other articles comprise this book. The intention was to study the development of physiological thought both as a subject of interest in itself and also as a guide to the future in orientating undergraduate and post-graduate programmes. Some chapters, notably that of Eccles on the development of ideas about the synapse, are reviews of recent developments in limited fields, but most are devoted to subjects that are wider and less technical. Many chapters cover developments in the last four or five hundred years, and deal with man as an integrated being, 'live' and with a 'mind' and 'body'. What these words mean is discussed from various aspects, and the reader is left with the impression that although many would like to adopt a mechanistic concept of life, most are compelled to support the vitalistic view. As most chapters have been delivered as lectures the style tends to be conversational, and the book is easy to read.


This volume by two associate professors of anatomy at New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, New York City, is a detailed and careful account of the anatomy of the central nervous system written on orthodox lines. There is some account of embryology and the physiological importance of the structures described together with some brief clinical notes. The book is copiously illustrated but some of the diagrams are rather complicated. The bibliography is well selected. The book is written primarily for the medical student but it is certainly more detailed than is necessary for students, other than those taking honours degrees, in this country.


This monograph discusses the results of thymectomy in 139 patients with myasthenia gravis operated on at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the authors agree with Geoffrey Keynes that the operation is of real benefit in selected cases in whom a thymus is not present, the best results being obtained in women under the age of 40. There are chapters on the clinical features of the disease, on the radiology of the thymus, on operative technique, and on post-operative cure. This latter is one of the most important aspects in management and the advice given is good but more emphasis might have been given to physiotherapy to the chest in the post-operative period. The outstanding chapter in the book is the historical account of myasthenia gravis by Dr. Viets and there is also a short but excellent chapter on the pathology of the thymus by Dr. Castleman.


Dr. Purdon Martin's keen interest in the functions of the basal ganglia is well known, and this publication provides a useful collection of his thoughts. The subject is so complicated that courage is required to discuss the physiological mechanisms involved, but the author helps considerably by indicating not only what is known but also by listing the many questions which cannot yet be answered.


Dr. Bonica's work on the relief of pain by peripheral nerve block is well known, and his publication of this small textbook on the subject will be widely welcomed. The organization of 'pain clinics' has become an important feature of hospital medical services, and there is no doubt that a special study of this subject is most rewarding. His work is based entirely on nerve blocks, but some will think that the technique of reproducing
pain by a very small injection of 6% saline adds something to the techniques available, especially from the diagnostic point of view.


All neurologists know Dr. Ford’s textbook, and this new edition will be widely welcomed. Some sections, however, are surprisingly out of date. Thus in acute infective polynerveitis where there is paralysis of swallowing there is no mention of the importance of nursing in the prone position. The use of a cuffed tracheotomy tube with positive pressure respiration has transformed the prognosis in the most severe cases and yet this is not mentioned at all. The section on focal epilepsy is incomplete and inaccurate while the operation of hemispherectomy is not mentioned. The diagnostic features of hereditary tremor are not adequately described. It is surprising to read that plaster of Paris splints are still advised in the acute stage of poliomyelitis; the description of the treatment of the bulbar form of the disease is quite inadequate.

At times the presentation is curiously impersonal. Thus in the section on Wilson’s disease the reader might reasonably hope to know the author’s experience of treatment, yet there is nothing to indicate in this section that he has ever treated a case himself, and certainly there is no suggestion of a personal opinion about treatment.

Few textbooks of this size can hold their own for many editions and yet there is here a wealth of information which we are all glad to refer to from time to time.


This book is good where it deals with lesions particularly common in children; that in effect is the field of paediatric neurosurgery. But in other matters, e.g., tumours and epilepsy, the book becomes only a guide or notebook to neurosurgery and suffers in consequence. There are 22 collaborators and the best contributions are on congenital malformations, hydrocephalus (which includes a first-class review of various techniques and their results), trauma, and subdural effusions and haematomas. The section on tumours is disappointing, there being some remarkable statements, such as: ‘Medulloblastomas occur almost exclusively in males and the same is true for craniofathangiomas’; That papillomas, pinealomas, and craniofathangiomas act as ‘movable valves’; ‘To open the dura widely in the face of increased intracranial pressure invites disaster in all hands except those of the most experienced and fortunate surgeons’.


This well-established textbook is up to date and comprehensive. The descriptions of disease are concise and well illustrated. There are excellent chapters on neurochemistry, the vegetative nervous system, and on the neurological manifestations of certain mental diseases.


Following vaccination a patient may suffer from a disease of the central nervous system to which, often, no more specific name can be given than ‘encephalitis’. At necropsy one of several different disease entities may be found, such as acute anterior poliomyelitis, or haemorrhagic lesions, or encephalopathic lesions, or perivenous regions of demyelination with microglial infiltration and proliferation. This last is called postvaccinal, perivenous, or microglia encephalitis and it is the main subject of the book, which is based upon the morbific anatomical and histological examination of the nervous systems of 62 patients in Holland who died following vaccination or revaccination after 1925. Of these 26 died of microglia encephalitis following primary vaccination and three died of microglia encephalitis following revaccination. The literature is extensively reviewed both in relation to vaccination and to infectious diseases. The author found that microglia encephalitis has very rarely been noted before 1923, that it does not occur in children under 2 years of age and that it does not occur in re-vaccinated people in whom there is specific immunity reaction in the skin. He considers that this is probably not caused by a virus or living agent but is due to more complicated interaction of high molecular substances formed by conditions which is some point resemble allergic processes.

This is an interesting, well-documented book which contains a great deal of information.


In his foreword to this book, Mr. O’Connell aptly points out that “in the past neurosurgical anaesthesia has appeared unattractive to some and was avoided for what was considered to be more rewarding work. Fortunately with the dramatic development of the art of general anaesthesia in the last 25 years, made possibly by improved techniques, drugs, interest and teaching of this attitude of mind seems now to be obsolete. Anaesthesia for neurosurgical operations provides many problems, and for their successful solution happy cooperation between surgeon and anaesthetist is essential. This book provides an excellent account of the problems in the way they may be overcome, and precise details of available techniques. It is freely illustrated by diagrams, and by copies of anaesthetic charts illustrative of various operations. It is obvious that the authors have had long experience and are themselves used to the team-work praised by Mr. O’Connell. In their introductory chapter, they indicate that early progress in neurosurgical anaesthesia was due to Dr. Mennell. Without detracting from that tribute, some recognition is also due to the efforts of neurosurgeons in this country, in the twenties...
and thirties, particularly Cairns, Dott, and Jefferson, who recognized the problems—particularly the need for light, smooth anaesthesia and a perfect airway, maintained for many hours in awkward postures—who helped their anaesthetists to achieve success, and who more than any others, laid down the general principles for nursing successfully the unconscious patient. The authors are to be congratulated on producing a very readable yet succinct account of their subject.


In 1954 the Congress of Neurological Surgeons instituted publication of their Proceedings, at which one or more outstanding neurosurgeons are invited to present several papers, in volume I the late Sir Geoffrey Jefferson was the major speaker. Volume 6 is the edited account of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Congress, and Dr. A. Earl Walker is the major contributor. He presents articles on topics which reflect his main interests. A brief historical sketch of early neurosurgery; surgery of the brain stem; epilepsy. Other contributors provide chapters on regional hypothermia of the brain, anatomy physiology and traumatic lesions of the brain stem; various neurosurgical procedures for posterior fossa lesions and reviews of stereotoxic operations. Outstanding amongst these are Dr. Walker’s on epilepsy which provides a brief but succinct account of recent electrophysiological work on experimental epilepsy and its influence on the views of the genesis of epilepsy in the human; and a review of post traumatic epilepsy from its clinical aspects. A review of Dandy’s operations for Mениere’s disease, an operation which may now be displaced by the application of ultrasonics to inner ear surgery. An account by Dr. Poppen of experience with vascular lesions in the posterior fossa—10 hamartomas, 23 haemangioblastomas, and 21 aneurysms.

These volumes maintain a high standard. The contributors choose subjects in which they have particular interest and experience, and present them with vigour and personal opinions. A discussion of varying length often provides additional clarification of certain problems. The chief contributor at these meetings must find them stimulating, but exhausting, for each paper is of considerable length (up to 30 pp.) and requires considerable preparation.


The scope of neuroradiology has increased considerably in recent years and it is becoming progressively more difficult to cover the field satisfactorily in one volume. Decker and his associates are to be congratulated on the textbook which they have written. There are eight co-authors, of whom two come from Munich, two from Paris, two from Boston, and one each from New York and Montreal. Multiple authorship tends to have some disadvantages with dangers of recapitulation, but here this fault can scarcely be found. The advantages outweigh any disadvantages, particularly in the bibliography which has a much stronger international flavour than is to be found in most textbooks. In fact none of the authors take a parochial view and Decker’s reading particularly has a very catholic flavour.

The book is very well and profusely illustrated, there being nearly 1,500 pictures. The quality of the illustrations is up to the very high standard expected of Thieme; the paper and print are equally good. Unfortunately the price is inevitably high, about £20. The radiographs are reproduced in positive form, the usual German practice, not favoured universally.

A glance at the format shows how inextricably mixed the investigations of angiography and pneumography have become in neuroradiology. This is the inevitable modern trend which in some respects increases the difficulties for both writer and reader. However, it has to be faced and Decker and his team have handled it well.

It would be invidious to single out any one chapter as being better than another. They are all up to date and authoritative.


The new edition of this well-established reference work includes almost 2,000 new entries, and covers as before a wide field in psychiatry and allied subjects. Here, for example, you can find the meaning of Gribelsoicht, egotism, autonobytobatesis, ischmophonia. The entries are concise and clear, and are fully developed where explanation is necessary.

The Neuropsychology of Lashley: Selected Papers of K. S. Lashley. Edited by Frank A. Beach, Donald O. Hebb, Clifford T. Morgan, and Henry W. Nissen. (Pp. xx + 564; illustrated. 74s.) London and New York: McGraw-Hill. 1960. Lashley will be remembered as a great authority on the experimental approach to the study of animal behaviour and learning. As regards the effect of destructive lesions of the brain, he was more impressed with the importance of the total volume of brain destroyed than with injury to special cortical areas, but his observations were often based on experiments with rats. It is regrettable that such a brilliant thinker and research worker should not have been able to study the effects of small brain lesions in man. However, he expresses clear views on many psychological matters, and said of the relation of brain to mind ‘there is no logical or empirical reason for denying the possibility that the correlation may eventually show a complete identity of the two organizations’.


This is an example of that difficult, uncertain, form of book production the Festschrift. Professor
Woodworth's ninetieth birthday might, perhaps have been more aptly celebrated had some of the contributors distinguished more closely between 'honour' and 'praise', for his reputation as a teacher and as an initiator and moderator of research has long been secure on both sides of the Atlantic and is one to which laudatory exercises can add nothing. Many, perhaps the majority of psychologists in this country, owe to him their first systematic introduction to general and experimental psychology. Many more in neighboring fields of education, medicine, and social science have known and learnt from his *Psychology—A Study of Mental Life* since it first appeared in 1921. As conservator of the central tradition of laboratory work, neither insensitive to fresh or outlying interests nor distracted by them, he is unrivalled.

The quality of some of these essays is rather diminished by their overt personal reference, but there is a quantity of interesting material. R. C. Davis has a readable and informative historical sketch of physiological psychology in the past half century, J. P. Guilford a scholarly account of Woodworth's interests in psychological measurement, and J. J. Gibson a coherent and pointed discussion of some central points in the theory of perception. N. G. Hanawalt's long and comprehensive review of the past 30 years' experimental work on memory is a useful introduction to important literature not always consulted by the clinical research worker. D. B. Klein has worked hard to evoke appreciation of Woodworth's psychopathological interests, such as they were. On the whole this is a book whose chief appeal, however, will be to the experimental psychologist. It seems a pity that such a work could not have been made more of an occasion of wider attraction.


Karl Menninger is, of course, a major figure in American psychiatry and psychoanalysis. We are told that he 'happens to be' a psychiatrist, also a physician, psychoanalyst, teacher, writer, administrator, theorist, and researcher. He is also an able historian, a militant conservationist, a compulsive collector of books, a sometimes serious bridge and chess player, a laboring horticulturist, and an omnivorous reader. Getting further down the barrel, he is a 'son, a brother, a husband, a father, and a grandfather'. On the occasion of his 65th birthday, some of his friends and colleagues had the excellent idea of conveying to others some idea of his depth, colour, and versatility. This selection of his works is the result of their efforts. For some of these the general psychiatric public will be grateful; but less so for others.

It is difficult to discern the basis of selection. Some of the papers are serious contributions to psychoanalytic literature, some to general psychiatric literature, and some are evidently intended for popular consumption. The contributions to psychoanalytic literature follow fairly orthodox lines. He describes, for example, the investigation of a patient with the common cold: how he ascertained that the cold was a re-enactment of the patient's wish to castrate his mother and acquire his penis. A revealing article describes why various medical men choose their specialities. The obstetrician is gratifying his infantile wish to become the mother. Urologists think the penis is the most important organ of the body. The unfortunate proctologist, because of the social taboo on analinity, is 'performing a humble man indeed'.

Amongst the contributions to psychiatric literature in the paper on 'The Abuse of Rest' can be particularly commended. The author criticizes the concept of 'nervous exhaustion'. This is a diagnosis which satisfies the patient's ego but is rarely justified except in those patients who have been exposed to prodigious stresses or cases of battle fatigue and the like. The contributions to such periodicals as *Harper's Magazine*, the *Women's Home Journal*, *American Forests*, and the *Kansas State Peace Officer's Magazine* are perhaps less worthy of being published in a more permanent form and abound in loose statements and irrelevancies. To one's greater surprise he describes Freud as modest and retiring. Although the author is primarily an analyst he is sometimes able to open his mind to the wider world. He commends, in 'A Psychiatric Fable', it is true, a resident who does not use words like libido or Oedipus. The author also supports research into leucotomy, for example, for unbearable pain.

Perhaps the main characteristic of this famous man is his energy. The list of his published writings occupies 17 pages. We would agree with him when he says that in America 'gradually the Freudian ideas have gained complete supremacy'. The author is one of the small group of men mainly responsible for this.


In this small volume, designed primarily for the lay reader, the author seeks to explain the nature of analytical psychotherapy and the basic beliefs about personality on which this rests. He stresses the complexity of the relationship between the therapist and the patient and believes that both have some power, however limited, in determining their future. This is a salutary corrective to Freud's determinism but it is naïve to quote Heisenberg's uncertainty principle in support of these views. The author's emphasis, of course, is on environmental factors in the causation of mental illness and he criticizes the work of geneticists, utilizing their modest statements as criticisms but using a very different yardstick to emphasize the importance of the environment. He says that if a child 'is separated from his mother in infancy reared in fear and cowed and beaten . . . fear and hatred . . . will exist as part of his adult personality'. We would agree, but this history will not have any predictive value. He may become an inadequate psychopath, a gross neurotic, or a multimillionaire. The child of schizophrenic parents is at least likely to be schizophrenic rather than anything else if he develops a mental abnormality.

Perhaps the most revealing part of the book is the support which the author gives to what most non-
analysts have often suspected that 'the least sophisticated of psychotherapists will admit that he became interested in psychotherapy because of his own emotional problems', that an analyst is 'no better equipped to bring up children than a completely unsophisticated person', and that 'some analysts resemble converts to a religion whose lives are enthralled by their faith'.

It is only the last three chapters which are concerned with the psychotherapeutic process and these are perhaps the most useful. The author warns against various dangers to which the psychotherapist is exposed. He may, for example, fall in love with the patient (which is 'incestuous') or indoctrinate her with his own set of beliefs. He admits that it is difficult to prove that psychotherapy is effective but argues that it is equally difficult to prove that it is ineffective and in any case 'we should be driven into psychotherapy even if we disbelieved in its efficacy', a situation which would be most unsatisfactory.


This book is a record of the proceedings of the Mental Health Research Fund Conference on Stress and Psychiatric Disorder held at Lincoln College, Oxford, in July, 1958. It contains the 12 papers given at the Conference together with the discussions following them in a condensed form.

As Dr. Denis Hill points out in his contribution, the concept of stress as an important aetiological factor in psychiatric disorder, is largely a development of the post-war years. There has, however, been much loose thinking about the meaning of the term "stress" and Dr. Derek Richter does well to consider some current usages of the word in different fields.

The main chapters in this volume concern the disorganization of behaviour in man, the disorganization of behaviour in animals, physiological responses to stressors, and the prevention and treatment of psychiatric reactions to stress.

If this volume is to be regarded as a guide it seems that stress must be much more likely to produce psychosomatic disorders than neuroses or psychoses: perhaps this is because we know more about the physiological responses to stress than the psychological. It is a pity that psychologists contributed so little to this conference. Within the terms of reference of the authors, however, the contributions are of a uniformly high quality and the Mental Health Research Fund and the authors are to be congratulated.


Schizophrenia provides a challenge to many types of research worker, and this book makes a useful collection of the various possible approaches to the problem, including genetics, biochemistry, and physiology. Perhaps the most significant report comes from a study of the family personal relations, which are probably never very normal in the families of schizophrenic children.


This product of a symposium sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association bespeaks the confidence now placed in convergent studies of schizophrenia: "only an integrated multidisciplinary approach will lead us to effective methods of treatment" says the editor in his preface. The chief methods of investigation here presented are neurophysiological, biochemical, psychological, and cultural. Some of the papers restate findings in inquiries that are widely known; others, such as Roy Birdwhistell's on linguistic-kinesthetic studies of the disorders of communication in schizophrenia, and Gregory Bateson's cognate review of the disorders of homeostasis in the schizophrenic family, go into less familiar territory. Although findings and conclusions are meagre in comparison with the many speculations and suggestions put forward in this book, it indicates the diversity of approaches now thought promising, and the hard road that must be travelled before it can truly be said that they are integrated.


Depersonalization is so striking a departure from normality and so consistent in its manifest pattern that much has been written about it, without adding appreciably to the initial descriptions and speculations about its origin and pathology. Professor Meyer is the latest to essay relating the occurrence of this syndrome to the internal and the environmental situations in which it developed. Stressing the disturbance of relationship between oneself and the external world which is obvious in this disorder he compares and contrasts it with the obsessional syndrome in which, as another German psychiatrist has maintained, the patient is obliged to react against his will to the outer world which he struggles vainly to ward off: whereas the obsessional's world seems narrow, the depersonalized man, isolated from his surroundings, feels they are unreal. Professor Meyer analyses the lives of non-psychotic patients who were depersonalized and concludes that several quite different causes operate in promoting the condition. Acute depersonalization, for example, may be "emotional stupor" after a traumatic fright; hysterical depersonalization can serve to make reality more tolerable; depersonalization during adolescence may be the outcome of the conflicts of puberty. Although Dr. Meyer's account of his cases and of their response to the thematic apperception test is of interest, and his speculations are ingenious, they do not advance our knowledge of the genesis, the prognosis, or the treatment of this puzzling syndrome.


More than half of this monograph is devoted to the description of 12 patients who were neurotically depressed. The succeeding chapters are concerned mainly with the
pathogenesis and diagnosis of the condition. The discussion of pathogenesis is centred on experiences of loss and threat, the effort to maintain a mental equilibrium, and the complex of wishes, ideas, and aims which make up the design of each person's life. Dr. Vökel, following the exposition of Professor Störing (who writes a foreword to the book) puts much store by the notion that each person's life-design is basically formed by "nuclei of crystallization" which, as the personality develops, are fixed, through strong affective investment, into a dynamic structure. The origins of such generalizations are clear enough, but their application to the problems of neurotic depression adds very little, if anything to our understanding of the clinical problem, nor—what is more important at this stage—to proper statement of the problem. Dr. Vökel makes no reference to the extensive French, British, and American literature on this subject, and is evidently unaware that his study traverses ground now tediously familiar.


Many of the most adventurous and influential psychoanalysts of the older generation spent the first decade of their professional career in painstaking neurological studies. In this, as in so much else, they patterned themselves on Freud. Frieda Fromm-Reichmann, after she qualified in 1914, spent 10 years in the investigation and treatment of head injuries, under the guidance of Kurt Goldstein. Contact with psychotherapists, especially J. H. Schultz, led to an interest and eventually to a training in psychoanalysis. From the customary concern with the treatment of neuroses she passed to a bold application of psychoanalysis to schizophrenic disorders, in spite of the general view put forward by Freud himself and endorsed by Schilder and many others, that psychotic conditions are unsuitable for such therapy. In the United States, where she lived from 1935 until her death in 1957, she worked constantly in this area of psychiatry, and her publications, here assembled, bespeak the clinical grasp and therapeutic experience which she had at her disposal. She spent the whole of this time at Chestnut Lodge, a private institution where the patients were by no means representative of the general run of schizophrenics, but this did not trouble her as she was concerned with the basic problems that beset the path of any physician who gives psychological treatment to schizophrenics.

The papers show much common sense, a gift for exposition, and an awareness of the pitfalls awaiting the inexperienced, the unprepared, and the self-centred or disingenuous psychotherapist. What one seeks for in vain, as in most accounts of psychoanalytic treatment, is a full discussion of failures and an objective analysis of the sorts of change, the proportions of desirable and undesirable changes that occurred, and the extent to which such changes can be foreseen.


The popularity of insulin coma as treatment for schizophrenia has waned greatly in recent years, and may be near eclipse. To reassess the value of this method, a conference was held in New York in October, 1958; the papers there presented make up this book. Ten of the speakers were from the United States, four from South America, two from Austria, and one from England. Although interesting clinical and biochemical observations were reported, and technical variations described, there was a predominance of uncontrolled studies of the effects of treatment. The speakers mostly held the view that their impressions about therapeutic success and failure could be depended on, and that strictly controlled trials are unnecessary or misleading: as Dr. Rinkel puts it in his concluding summary, differences in diagnosis and differences in the methods of treatment "prevent logical statistical interpretation of results." Because of this old-fashioned approach, the material presented fails to justify the editors' conclusion that insulin therapy is still essential in psychiatry.


An international congress offers a temptingly convenient occasion for getting experts in some subdivision of the main theme to summarize their recent work in such a way that a book can be readily made out of their joint contributions. In this instance the Zurich Congress of Psychiatry in 1957 provided the opportunity, and generous support from some 16 pharmaceutical firms and foundations the material aid, for assembling a number of psychiatrists, pharmacologists, biochemists, and physiologists who have been prominent in research into chemical aspects of the pathology and treatment of mental disorder or into the activity of the healthy central nervous system under varying conditions. The 36 papers read at the symposium and assembled in this book have been arranged in five not very homogeneous divisions, dealing respectively with the history of this field, chemical, clinical, and physiological observations on neuroleptics; the problem of schizophrenia; and theoretical reflections.

It is convenient to have some of these studies juxtaposed with others from a seemingly remote discipline, but on the whole the book lacks the coherence and adequate coverage which can be expected in a well-organized survey of current knowledge, planned directly with that end in view. It does not make up for this by the novelty of its contents: practically all the findings reported were already available in the journals. Its faults, in short, are those of its genre, not of its contributors.


In the German speaking countries psychology still hangs on the whole closer affinity with philosophy than with experimental science. How wide is the gap which separates such psychology from that mostly taught and
studied in American and British universities is demonstrated by Professor Moor's exposition of the fundamentals of genetic and educational psychology. He mistrusts the logical schemata with which science works: scientific truth, he says, means only that the concept it deals with are logically consistent with one another, and is never truth in the metaphysical or the religious sense. Consequently he is teleological and moral in his approach to the development of personality. He looks at conduct from the standpoint of the child's habits, its vital impulses, his decisions, and his inner attitude and understanding. Half of the book is devoted to statements of the psychological systems of Stern, Adler, Kölker, Watson, Spranger, Jaspers, Jung, Klages, Heidegger, and other notables. The other half examines the development of personality, its structure viewed in its totality as "character", and inner "steadiness" for which he coins a new term. Professor Moor's elaborate exposition of his views does not lend itself to summary statement, nor accord with prevailing modes of thought in genetic psychology; it offers, however, an interesting alternative to the theoretical foundation on which much of our remedial education and child guidance rests.


The value of epidemiological methods in studying the aetiology and course of mental disorders is now widely accepted, and the consequent growth of epidemiological investigations has been spectacular. The Report of the W.H.O. Expert Committee takes cognizance of this, and reviews concisely but comprehensively the technical and other problems of such research. Something more detailed was seen to be necessary for the guidance of psychiatrists and others entering upon epidemiological investigations without practical experience. Professor D. D. Reid consequently prepared a vade-mecum setting out the general principles of epidemiological research, and the possibilities and the limitations of its applications to psychiatry. The outcome is a handy, clear, well-organized and readable booklet, which will be of much value to clinicians engaged in such study of mental disorders.


The author has tried, in this concise textbook, to describe the psychiatric syndrome and their dynamics with only minimal reference to areas of controversy and non-medical speculation. He has succeeded in this awkward task. His straightforward account, which follows standard lines, begins with a neutral exposition of the various schools of psychopathology, which leaves the reader with an impression that Professor Jackson A. Smith is tolerantly Laodic in his attitude towards them all. Similarly in the account of reaction types and methods of treatment a quietly ironic sentence or footnote occasionally relieves the steady, economically expressed flow of his description. The sections on alcoholism and on drug therapy are particularly concise and practical.


This is, in effect, a journal which appears once a year in stiff covers: in an editorial foreword it is explained that lengthy papers on child psychiatry—the subject with which it deals—cannot easily find a medium of publication in German-speaking countries. The editor of this journal is Professor Villinger of Marburg, the doyen of German authorities in this field: three of the articles come from his clinic, whose fine new building, housing 52 children, is described in detail. The majority of the articles tend to be verbose and bereft of explicit factual underpinning: this does not apply however, to the informative study by Harbauer and his colleagues in Cologne, who compared the mental development of 33 children who were permanently crippled by poliomyelitis with the level attained by a control group of 66 healthy children. Several of the clinical papers, e.g., that of Hilde Mosse on the misuse of the diagnosis "juvenile schizophrenia", and Hunnakens and Kipfard's study of the therapeutic possibilities in brain-damaged children, contain suggestive observations and comments.


Almost half this book is concerned with the measurement of pain. This is an important and obtrusive subject which inevitably engages the attention of all clinicians at times. The author points out, as many others have, that although the parameters of pain-producing stimuli and certain common—usually autonomic—responses associated with pain can both be measured within limits, pain itself remains subjective and liable to unpredictable variations of threshold and content, both from person to person and in the same person from time to time. Pain therefore cannot be measured, but some oblique approaches to its estimation can be made, and Dr. Beecher discusses and comments on some of these. Although at times obscured by jargon and perhaps occasionally unmindful of the limited value of statistics if applied to unreliable primary facts, this book is a useful one for all clinicians and especially for those concerned in the work of pain clinics. Its chief value lies in admitting the marked limitations of measurement in subjective responses and in indicating ways of allowing for, and in part circumventing, these limitations.


In 1955, the United States Congress authorized a joint commission to carry through a survey of the national...
BOOK REVIEWS


BOOKS RECEIVED

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


needs and resources for promoting mental health. This monograph is the fifth to be published in the series of reports prepared for the joint commission. The authors, who are non-medical, are experienced in the organization of welfare activities for large communities. They spent two years in collecting data about the relevant social resources throughout the country and making a more detailed field study of 15 counties which had characteristics typical of their respective regions. The report contains much factual information about the various social services. It confirms, rather than reveals, the lack in many communities of adequate social provision for people with psychiatric troubles: it also confirms the suspicion that there is no satisfactory yardstick for determining what is adequate (as distinct from ideal) social provision for such people. The monograph is much larger, flabbier, and heavier than it would have been if written firmly and concisely.

Course in Electroencephalography

The International Federation of Societies for Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology announces that an advanced course in electroencephalography will be held in Marseilles from August 28 to September 2 1961. Application forms for those who wish to attend may be obtained from Dr. O. Magnus, St. Ursula Clinic, Wassenaar, Holland.

International Congress of Neuroradiology

The next international congress of neuroradiology (VI Symposium Neuroradiologicum) will be held in Rome from September 18 to 22, 1961, under the Presidency of Dr. Giovanni Ruggiero. All correspondence should be addressed to Dr. Enzo Valentino, General Secretary, VI Symposium Neuroradiologicum—CIT—Ufficio Congressi, Piazza Colonna 193, Rome.

Congress on Mental Retardation

The second international congress on mental retardation will take place in Vienna from August 14 to 19, 1961. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Congress, Universitatskinderklinik, Wien IX, Lazarettsasse 14, Austria.

International Symposium of Stereoecephalotomy

An international symposium on stereotaxic surgery will be held under the direction of Drs. E. A. Spiegel and Henry T. Wycis on October 11, 1961, at Philadelphia. Enquiries should be sent to Dr. Henry T. Wycis, 3401 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia 40, Pa., U.S.A.