

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Parkinsonism: Its Medical and Surgical Therapy.** By Irving S. Cooper. (Pp. xii + 239; 111 figures. 132s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

There is no doubt that a stereotactic brain lesion properly placed will relieve Parkinsonian tremor and to a lesser degree the rigidity. However, there are plenty of unsolved problems, and in this study by Dr. Cooper there is a frank recognition of the need to select cases very carefully. The best patients to treat are those with unilateral symptoms in which the cause has presumably been an attack of encephalitis many years previously. In the degenerative types of Parkinson's disease which affect one side first, early operation is advised, but the evidence regarding the effect of early operation on the subsequent course of the disease is inadequately studied. Bilateral operations are still unpredictable and hazardous. Attempts to explain the beneficial or the occasional harmful results on physiological grounds have as yet made little progress. This is a dramatic development in neurosurgery but the scientific exploitation of the clinical material is quite inadequate.

**Hypothermia for the Neurosurgical Patient.** By Antonio Boba. (Pp. vii + 124; 48 figures. 48s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1960.

This short book provides a succinct review of the experimental work and clinical experience in hypothermia techniques suitable for neurosurgical operations. There are three chapters of approximately equal length. The first considers the basic principles of heat exchange and general physiological results; the second discusses the choice of anaesthetic drugs and the complications or disturbances of normal physiology; the third is devoted to details of technique and quotes a few cases. This chapter is the shortest and the book would have been more useful to the practising anaesthetist if it had been the longest. Ether is the recommended anaesthetic drug; as a means of facilitating cooling it has proved useful, but to use it throughout (upwards of five and a half hours in one case quoted) seems a retrogression in anaesthetic practice. Ventricular fibrillation and metabolic acidosis receive much attention as complications to be feared, and one wonders to what extent the universal use of ether may be held responsible for these complications, which are exceedingly rare in the reviewer's experience. Coming from Charles C. Thomas, the book is naturally excellently produced, but 48s. seems very expensive.

**Essentials of Neurosurgery for Students and Practitioners.** By Sean Mullan. (Pp. 288; 87 figures. \$6.75.) New York: Springer Publishing Company. 1961.

It must be difficult to write a textbook of neurosurgery which is not too concerned with specialized techniques for students on the one hand, and yet not advanced enough for qualified doctors on the other hand. Professor Sean Mullan, of the University of Chicago, has written such a book, and it is a good one. It is indeed the essentials of neurosurgery as students and practitioners should know them, and the whole field is covered adequately in an easily readable style. There are numerous simple diagrams which for the student are often more helpful than clinical and pathological photographs, and the few ventriculograms and angiograms are well reproduced.

**Neurochemistry of Epilepsy: Seizure Mechanisms and their Management.** By Donald B. Tower. (Pp. x + 335; 30 figures. 72s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

This book is not intended primarily for biochemists but for any medical practitioner who wishes to understand the essentials of the subject. There are four main subdivisions in the book: oxidative metabolism, amino-acid metabolism, including the role of pyridoxine, electrolytes, and transmitters, and anticonvulsants. The various metabolic disturbances which can produce fits are described, and in the last chapter the author brings all the evidence together in relation to clinical epilepsy. The nature of the basic disorder in epilepsy is still unknown but it may well be that such studies as these are a more profitable line to pursue than the search for anatomically localized foci. Although the book is primarily concerned with epilepsy, anyone who wishes to know the fundamentals of the biochemistry of neurology in general will benefit by reading it.

**A Biochemical Basis of Multiple Sclerosis.** By Roy L. Swank. (Pp. ix + 88; 14 figures. 40s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

Dr. Swank's advocacy of a low-fat diet in multiple sclerosis is well known, but this is only one facet of his wide study of all aetiological factors. These are presented very clearly in this lecture and will be read with profit by those working on this frustrating disease.

**The Pathology of Cerebral Palsy.** By Abraham Towbin. (Pp. xi + 206; 70 figures. 64s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; 1960. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

Dr. Towbin, in this book, has ranged far wider than he indicates in the title. Consequently, we are treated to a survey of a large part of paediatric neuropathology,

for example, a description is included of Schilder's disease, mongolism, Krabbe's disease, and Pelizaeus-Merzbacker disease.

This policy has limited the description of the more restricted subject of perinatal cerebral palsy which has been dealt with more thoroughly in contemporary monographs. Nevertheless, Dr. Towbin's account is stimulating reading and he has taken pains to assemble the causes and effects of perinatal brain damage and to present them in a clear, forthright manner. There are numerous excellent illustrations from splendid pathological specimens.

The author's style of writing uses a vocabulary which provokes conflicting reactions. Although it conveys the enthusiasm of the writer for his subject, the reader feels pelted with misused words which add little to their context. Words such as basic, intrinsic, integral, elective, and correlated are used so frequently as to mar their meaning.

The prospective reader may be deterred by the description of this work as on the dust jacket a 'correlated transectional view of the basic pathology of cerebral palsy'. In fact, it is an excellent synopsis of the subject.

**Cerebro-Spinal Fluid Dynamics in Health and Disease.** By David Bowsher; with Foreword by I. Newton Kugelmass. (Pp. 80; 22 figures. 38s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

The author summarizes the present knowledge of the formation and absorption of cerebrospinal fluid, and an excellent bibliography gives references particularly to methods for the study of C.S.F. dynamics. His chapters on hydrocephalus and other disorders of C.S.F. dynamics are too brief to be of much value, and there is little clinicopathological correlation, but the book indicates the scope for research in this field.

**Neuromuscular Disorders (The Motor Unit and Its Disorder).** Proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, Dec. 12 and 13, 1958, New York, Volume XXXVIII. Edited by Raymond D. Adams, Lee M. Eaton, and C. Milton Shy. (Pp. xx + 813; 225 figures. 180s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1961.

This volume will be welcomed not only by neurologists and those general physicians interested in the disorders of the lower motoneurone, but also by many physiologists, pathologists, and biochemists. The basic problems of structure and function of the motor unit are most ably reviewed and discussed with great clarity by authorities of world renown. Of great interest and importance, too, are the articles on experimental pathology of muscle including the experimental muscular dystrophies. A rather small portion of the book is devoted to the basic approach to clinical problems of neuromuscular disorders in man, and this includes a good description of some physiological techniques useful in the study of neuromuscular disorders. The largest portion of the book, accounting for almost half of it, is devoted to clinical problems. Some of these chapters are extremely

well done; the ones on myasthenia gravis and the chronic progressive disorders of the lower motor neurone are outstandingly good and point the way to further advances. The chapter on muscular dystrophy, however, is a rather disappointing attempt at clinical classification and encyclopaedic description which seems to be a long-winded way of saying how little is understood about them at the moment.

The volume ends with an all-too-short section on some experimental techniques of promise in the study of neuromuscular disorders. This section is quite fascinating and will be read with pleasure and eagerness by everyone who has contact with patients suffering from disorders of motor units.

The late Dr. Lee Eaton was largely responsible for the programme of subjects and for inviting the various speakers—all experts in their field. This volume will long remain as an outstanding memorial to him and one of the most important contributions of the A.R.N.M.D. since the 1940s. It is a pity that it has taken so long to publish the volume after the presentation of the papers (December 1958 to June 1961).

**Lehrbuch der Psychiatrie**, 10th ed. By Eugen Bleuler; revised by Manfred Bleuler, with Foreword by Manfred Bleuler. (Pp. xvi + 629; 121 figures. DM 56.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1960.

This book appeared first in 1916, and represented an attempt by Eugen Bleuler to apply to the whole of psychiatry the principles of his approach to schizophrenia, which he had published in 1911 in the classic 'Dementia Praecox or the Group of Schizophrenias'. Eugen Bleuler died in 1939, and the subsequent four editions of the book have been revised and edited by his son Manfred. In those early days Bleuler tried to introduce the ideas of psychoanalysis into psychiatry and to integrate them with Kraepelian nosology. In his attitude towards the psychoanalysis of his time he was more open-minded than most European psychiatrists of his day; but even so he admitted only a very modified (psychoanalysts might say watered down) version of Freud's views. What he achieved was rather an eclectic assimilation of some early psychoanalytical ideas than a true integration of principles. In a letter of 1908 to Abraham, quoted by Jones (1958), Freud wrote, 'Jung himself writes to me that Bleuler is showing himself amenable and almost inclined to abandon the conception of the organic nature of dementia praecox'. But in actual fact, he never did. He left the question of the causation of the psychoses essentially open, favouring a multiple causality and coming fairly close to the position later developed by Kretschmer.

Every new edition of the book has been carefully kept up to date by Manfred Bleuler. In the present edition the chapter on drug treatment is new, and those on epilepsy and on psychotherapy and causation in the neuroses have been partly re-written. The textbook has its established position in the German-speaking psychiatric world, which it earns by its clear organization of the material and excellent sense of balance.

The first edition of the book was translated into

English by Brill in 1923. Apart from the fact that the translation is not a very happy one, the book has by now changed so greatly that the English translation is of no more than historical interest.

**Experimental Psychology.** By Burton G. Andreas. (Pp. xi + 595; 19 figures. 56s.; \$6.95.) New York and London: John Wiley. 1960.

This textbook is unusual in two respects. First, it takes seriously the problem of teaching experimental psychology as opposed to the mere imparting of selected information; and secondly, it makes no attempt to cover the whole field of contemporary inquiry. The first part is concerned mainly with general methods; a good deal of attention is given to the design and conduct of experiments, the nature of psychological measurement, and the relation of observation to theory. (Even the writing of research reports finds mention, though here it is a pity that greater stress is not laid on good and simple English.) The second part deals with some selected areas of investigation, including sensory processes, perception, association, and learning. On the whole, this book is informed and thoughtful though it fails to transcend the conventional limits of American psychology and can hardly be said to imbue the student with a sense of adventure. Although addressed to university teachers of psychology and their students, it might prove useful to neurologists and others seeking guidance on methodological issues.

**Sensory Deprivation.** Edited by P. Solomon *et al.* (Pp. xv + 262; 21 figures. 46s.) Harvard University Press (London: Oxford University Press). 1961.

Recent experimental work on human volunteers and animals has shown that normal brain and thought processes become disorganized (often with hallucinations) if the normal afferent bombardment of the central nervous system from skin, eyes, and ears is prevented. Such deprivation in animals from birth has even more startling effects for it prevents the development of a great variety of normal reactions. This is an important new field of research and its presentation in this volume will arouse great interest.

**Brain Mechanisms and Learning.** A Symposium organized by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. (Pp. xiv + 702; illustrated. 70s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Toronto: Ryerson Press. 1961.

This symposium was held in 1959 and is concerned with biological problems which are of increasing interest at the present time. A scholarly introduction by H. W. Magoun provides a vivid setting for the papers which follow. These include contributions from R. W. Gerard, D. O. Hebb, W. H. Thorpe, J. Konorski, J. C. Eccles, W. R. Adey, C. Estable, and many others.

The main problems discussed are concerned with the physical changes which must take place in nerve cells when they are involved in establishing a simple memory mechanism, and in order to investigate this there are

studies of surprising diversity. Thus the tail half of a flatworm that is cut in two not only grows a new head but retains a pattern of directional behaviour which had been taught to the intact worm. A chaffinch requires to hear the correct song of the species during its first Spring in order to perform correctly, and many other aspects of animal behaviour generally thought to be inborn are in fact acquired after birth. Nerve cells may communicate with each other in several different ways but the precise mechanism of the potentiation at synaptic connexions which has been demonstrated in monosynaptic responses remains very uncertain. Yet synaptic potentiation in response to repetitive activity provides the most probable physiological background to memory and learning processes.

**Fear and Depression: Their Causes and Self-Treatment.** By Allan Worsley. (Pp. 84, plus Foreword and Index. 8s. 6d.) London: George Allen and Unwin. 1961.

This little book first appeared in 1939 and is now in its eighth edition. Its author has since 'turned over wholly to gynae-psychology, that is, the whole-time study and specialized speciality of the feminine mind and its troubles'. His aim is to provide methods based on modern knowledge of psychology for dealing with the exacerbation of fear and depression consequent upon the upheavals of World War II, and is in line with the many popular treatises for those distressed in mind which have appeared since English books started to be printed in the vernacular in the sixteenth century.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

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

**Drugs in the Treatment of Disease.** Specially commissioned articles from the *British Medical Journal*, 1961 (35s.).

**Enjuiciamiento de la Medicina Psicosomática.** By Honorio Delgado. (Pp. 179. Price not stated.) Barcelona: Editorial Científico Médica. 1960.

**Patologia Mentale e Farmacologia.** By Antonio Bastrieri. (Pp. xi + 258. Lira 3500.-) Padova: Cedam. 1961.

**Il Lobo Parietale.** By Carlo Gentili; Foreword by P. Ottonello. (Pp. 406; illustrated. Price not stated.) Bologna: Officina d'Arte Grafica Cacciari. 1955.

**The Neoplastic Process and the Nervous System.** P.S.T. Cat. No. 203 (63s.); **The Control of Immunogenesis by the Nervous System.** P.S.T. Cat. No. 124 (60s.); **Works of the Institute of Higher Nervous Activity Physiological Series**, Vols. 1 and 2. Cat. No. 69 (74s.) and No. 71 (64s.); **Pathophysiological Series**, Vols. 1, 2, and 3. Cat. Nos. 70, 72, and 74 (78s. each). Program for Scientific Translations, P. O. B. 7145, 14 Shammai Street, Jerusalem.

**Motor Examination of Peripheral Nerve Injuries.** By Y. T. Oester and John H. Mayer, Jr. (Pp. vi + 89; 101 figures. 44s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.