

familiar to those interested in the administrative and social aspects of hospital care and community services. It is no doubt convenient to have papers on this highly topical theme assembled in one volume, but it is in this case an expensive luxury.

**DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM**, 10th ed. By Sir Francis Walshe. (Pp. xii + 381; 60 figures. 35s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1963.

This famous textbook has now reached its tenth edition since 1940 and unlike some books it seems to improve with each edition. Inevitably the slim volume of 1940 has now become a book of 380 pages but this is due to inclusion of new material and the writing is still as concise as it always has been. There is a new chapter by Dr. John Walshe upon liver-brain relationships and the neurological consequences of their disorders. It is always interesting to read in successive editions a senior clinician's views on changing ideas in diagnosis and Sir Francis's comments on acroparaesthesiae and cervical spondylosis are an excellent illustration of this.

As the author says in his preface, the book is intended for general practitioners and students, and reviewers do not belong to the circle of readers for whom the book was designed, but one reviewer at least thoroughly enjoys reading the book and considers it the best available neurological textbook for undergraduates.

**NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN CLINICAL PRACTICE** By Edwin R. Bickerstaff. (Pp. x + 357; 84 figures. 50s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

The concept of neurology as an academic exercise, which is intellectually satisfying but therapeutically sterile, is still prevalent. Dr. Bickerstaff effectively disposes of this outmoded view in his opening chapter and in graphic style goes on in chapter 5 to show that neurology is very much a part of general medicine orientated towards the diagnosis and relief of disease. His statement: 'As vascular accidents form so large a part of neurological work . . .' gives the key to his approach. It is as a practical neurologist that he writes. The whole of part I is excellent, offering, as it does, the fruits of clinical experience and keen observation. Neurological examination is seen to be a fascinating exercise which embraces the patient as a whole and not just his nervous system.

An unusual and helpful feature is a chapter outlining when it is advisable to submit to full neurological investigation patients suffering from such commonly occurring conditions as headache, migraine, epilepsy, and strokes. Practitioners and general physicians see so many patients with these afflictions that it would be manifestly impossible, as well as undesirable, to refer them all to a neurologist and often they seek guidance on this point. They will find it here.

There is, however, one point of management on which the reviewer would strongly disagree. The unqualified statement is made that 'No patient with papilloedema should have the cerebrospinal fluid examined, unless burr holes have already been made and the ventricles

could be tapped if necessary'. If this advice were followed it would mean that in the case of patients with meningitis who develop papilloedema vital time would be lost before the bacteriological diagnosis was made and therapy instituted.

Nevertheless, the book as a whole is one which can be strongly recommended and which readers will find exceedingly helpful.

**HANDBUCH DER NEUROCHIRURGIE IV Band/3 Teil. Klinik und Behandlung der raumbeengenden intrakraniellen Prozesse III.** Edited by H. Olivecrona and W. Tönnis. (Pp. iv + 674; 213 figures. DM. 296.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1962.

This work, like its predecessors, is beautifully produced with superb reproductions of radiographs. It is also encyclopaedic in its approach and content. Five hundred and seventy-nine of its pages are devoted to the clinical and radiographic features of intracranial tumour diagnosis, and the balance is expended on the value of isotopes in diagnosing brain tumours. High class encyclopaedias, such as this, are really above criticism, but it must be admitted that they have a relatively limited appeal in our current era of specialization. The established specialist will have already acquired most of the knowledge contained in this book, whilst to most others the sheer size of the book will prove discouraging. However, encyclopaedias do have a real use, for those who are not neurological surgeons may occasionally wish to look up facts concerning a particular group of brain tumours and their method of presentation. Moreover, there is no doubt that this book would be of considerable value to the young neurosurgeon in training if he was prepared to read it carefully. This book should be on the shelves of any large training centre where the staff will have time to consult it.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

**MENTAL ABNORMALITY AND THE LAW** By H. Jenner Wily and K. R. Stallworthy. (Pp. 543. N.Z. price: 63s.) Christchurch, New Zealand: N.M. Peryer Ltd. 1962.

**MENTAL SUBNORMALITY** By W. A. Heaton-Ward. (Pp. 88. 7s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1963.

**PSYCHOPATHOLOGIE UND PSYCHOTHERAPIE** By Carl-Frederich Wendt. (Pp. vii + 81. DM. 14.80.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1962.

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STEREOENCEPHALOTOMY, STEREOTAXIC SURGERY.** Reprint from "Confinia Neurologica", vol. 22, no. 3-5, pp. 165-396 (1962). Edited by E. A. Spiegel and H. T. Wycis. (Pp. 232; 37 figures; 10 tables. sFr. 38.) Basel: S. Karger AG. 1963.