**SUMMARY**

Serum and cerebrospinal fluid vitamin B\textsubscript{12} levels were estimated in 46 patients with multiple sclerosis and 23 patients with miscellaneous disorders were used as a control group.

No significant difference between multiple sclerosis and control groups could be found either in the absolute values of serum or cerebrospinal fluid vitamin B\textsubscript{12} or in the serum: cerebrospinal fluid ratio. There was a significant correlation between serum and cerebrospinal fluid vitamin B\textsubscript{12} levels but not between vitamin B\textsubscript{12} and protein concentrations in cerebrospinal fluid. Vitamin B\textsubscript{12} binding in serum and cerebrospinal fluid is discussed. It was noted that a few patients with multiple sclerosis in this and previous reports have abnormally low serum vitamin B\textsubscript{12} levels although this is not statistically significant.

I would like to thank the Board of Governors of the United Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals for their support; Dr. Henry Miller for access to patients; Dr. E. J. Field for advice and laboratory facilities; Professor A. L. Latner for advice and routine cerebrospinal fluid protein estimations; Mrs. D. Weightman for statistical advice; Mrs. W. E. Armstrong for technical advice; and Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Ltd. for supplies of standard hydroxocobalamin.

**REFERENCES**


**The February 1964 Issue**

*The February 1964 Issue Contains the Following Papers*

- Serum enzyme studies in muscle disease Part I Variations in serum creatine kinase activity in normal individuals — John M. S. Pearce, R. J. Pennington, and John N. Walton
- Renal tubular acidosis presenting with muscle weakness — Desmond Carroll and Paget Davies
- The behaviour of attenuated strains of poliovirus in monkeys — T. S. L. Beswick, C. R. Coid, E. Hartley, Moira Henderson, and Maureen Winter
- Antibody studies in multiple sclerosis and experimental 'allergic' encephalomyelitis — E. A. Caspary, E. J. Field, and E. Janet Ball
- A clinical, pathological, and genetic study of an unusual form of Tay-Sachs disease with macular degeneration in the family — Paul R. Dyken and Wolfgang Zeman
- Ataxia telangietasia — H. L. Utian and M. Plit
- Arrested cerebellar development: a type of cerebellar degeneration in amaurotic idiocy — Reinhard L. Friede
- The cortical projection upon the claustrum — J. B. Carman, W. M. Cowan, and T. P. S. Powell
- Implications of Gerstmann’s syndrome — Robert F. Heimburger, William Demyer, and Ralph M. Reitan
- The effects of sensory input and concentration on post-amputation phantom limb pain — F. S. Morgenstern
- A critical evaluation of rheoencephalography in control subjects and in proven cases of cerebrovascular disease — Carlos Perez-Borja and John S. Meyer
- A radiological method of following changes and displacements of the brain after surgery — S. Obrador and V. Queimadelos
- Surgical removal of an intramedullary haematoma simulating Wallenberg’s syndrome — Ludwig G. Kempe
- Book reviews

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.I., price 18s. 6d.
scope might well be unreadable, but in fact the personal touches and manner of writing make it enjoyable, as well as essential for reference purposes. The task of keeping future editions up to date will be enormous, but it is to be hoped that the author will continue to respond to this certain demand.


Despite the large clinical and experimental literature which it has attracted, hypnosis remains a fringe subject to most practising physicians. This book will serve to introduce them to its historical background, its theoretical implications, and its application to several branches of medicine and surgery. The contributions of the 13 authors are uneven in quality but the cumulative weight of the evidence they furnish is sufficiently impressive to persuade the medical reader that whether or not he chooses to employ hypnotic techniques he cannot disregard them.


Six papers on theoretical considerations in hypnosis occupy the first 124 pages of this book: the rest, more than three-quarters, consists of reprints of 28 papers from recent numbers of accessible journals, an extravagance seldom warranted by their value.


This is a sequel to the author's earlier book on *The Treatment and Prevention of Reading Problems* and represents an approach to the problem of language backwardness from the standpoint of developmental neurology. Much emphasis is placed on the evolution and significance of cerebral dominance, the author being rightly critical of the assessment of dominance in terms of handedness alone. Methods of training unilateral preferences of hand, foot, and eye are described which are thought to bring about more consistent unilateral hemisphere dominance and, so it is supposed, correlated improvement in language skills. Although the reviewer has sympathy with this point of view, it cannot be said that the author has added any really convincing evidence in support of his claims. None the less, his approach, if developed more critically, might well contribute to our understanding of developmental language disorders and suggest profitable methods of remedial education.


Recent rapid developments in techniques for recording, analysing, and synthesizing naturally occurring sounds, including speech, and the great increase in availability of equipment for these purposes have led to renewed interest in auditory perception and communication in situations of everyday life as opposed to the laboratory experiment. In this book Dr. Ostwald shows how such techniques can be applied in the neurological and psychiatric clinic. The book includes at the outset an account of the principles, terminology, and techniques of acoustic methods which should at least relieve the anxieties of those hitherto unfamiliar with them. It then proceeds to discuss such topics as 'the baby cry', the characteristics of speech in various neurological and psychiatric disorders and changes in them during therapy, responses to baby sounds, clinical features of certain types of speechless patient, and the sounds made by disturbed cases. Much fresh ground is broken, and a case is made for further cultivation, but further careful tillage will be needed before the potentialities of these approaches can be fully appreciated.

**BOOKS RECEIVED**

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


**NOTICE**

The 18th annual meeting of the Scandinavian Neuro-surgical Society will take place in Oslo, Norway, on Friday, 11 September, and Saturday, 12 September 1964. President: Professor Kristian Kristiansen, M.D., Neuro-surgical Department, Ullevål Sykehus, Oslo, Norway, from whose office particulars of participation and of hotel rooms may be obtained.