Book reviews

PATHOLOGY OF TUMOURS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, 2nd ed.

By Dorothy S. Russell and L. J. Rubinstein, with a chapter on Tissue Culture in Relation to Tumours of the Nervous System by C. E. Lumsden. (Pp. 345; 314 figures. 70s.) London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1963.

The first edition of this admirable textbook met with immediate and world-wide approval. In the four years since its publication there have been sufficient important contributions to the literature to justify this new edition. These are all included yet the text is little altered and the volume only slightly enlarged. Almost all the original illustrations have been retained but two of high quality showing blepharoplasts in ependymomas have superseded others. A section on tumours of the adenohypophysis has been added in this edition and will be generally welcomed. The all-round excellence of this book, manifest equally in clarity of description and choice of illustration, is matched by the quality of its production; the alterations in the new edition maintain a rarely achieved standard.

The chapter on tissue culture by Professor Lumsden has been enlarged both by reason of his own recent work and on account of the contribution to this subject by Professor Kersting. Amongst many interesting additions, the former reports cells of polar spongioblastoma character in a culture of a tumour originating in the region of the pituitary stalk, and he describes the transition of Schwannoma cells into macrophages with a capacity to engulf *Mycobacterium leprae*.

CHOROID PLEXUS MENINGIOMAS OF THE LATERAL VENTRICLE

By J. C. Ladenheim. (Pp. xvi + 153; 53 figures; 16 tables. \$10.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This is a worthwhile analysis of the published cases of meningioma arising in the lateral ventricles together with details of 12 previously unrecorded cases from the neurosurgical service of Professor Olivecrona at the Serafimerlazarett. Of interest is the fact that the peak incidence of this uncommon and surgically rewarding tumour was found to be in the fourth decade which is earlier than in meningiomas found in more usual sites. As with all meningiomas, women form a higher proportion of cases than men. Sixty per cent of the tumours were located on the left side. There appear to be two sites of origin, anteriorly in the region of the interventricular foramen and posteriorly in the regions of the rostral portion of the cella media, trigone, and rostral part of the temporal horn. While in the latter sites the choroid plexus tissue is most abundant, it is sparse in the region of the interventricular foramen and the origin of tumours in this situation awaits a satisfactory explanation. Meningiomas of the lateral ventricle produce few localizing signs but the symptoms can be varied; it seems that only in 13% of cases may we expect to find symptoms referable to the floor of the third ventricle.

The neurosurgeon will find the radiographs in this highly-priced monograph of interest but the nine illustrations of gross specimens, and the photomicrographs, not always of good quality, are less helpful. It is to be regretted that there is little attempt at literary composition and the material is presented mostly in the form of notes. Such expressions as '... after the ventricular fluid has been extravasated extraventricularly ...', '... the histologic structure of the mesenchyme has a cytologic potentiality for transformation ...', and 'the terminal insertion of a spoon of medicine in her mouth was tremulously executed' are uncongenial to many readers and it positively offends to meet spelling such as '... exophthalmus' (on six occasions), 'chocked discs' and 'saggital plane'. The bibliography is notable for the number of misprints and inconsistencies.

GREENFIELD'S NEUROPATHOLOGY, 2nd ed. By W. Blackwood, W. H. McMenemey, A. Meyer, R. M. Norman, and Dorothy S. Russell. (Pp. vi + 679; illustrated. 105s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1963.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1958, shortly after Greenfield's death. Greenfield himself edited the book, and contributed about half its contents. The book was, and remains, unrivalled in its field; the seven tomes of the Lubarsch, Henke, and Rossle *Handbuch*, monumental in size, scope, and price, cannot be regarded as a generally accessible textbook.

In the second edition, edited by Dr. R. M. Norman, the original form is preserved. Each chapter has been revised and brought up to date, with the addition of fresh illustrations and an overall increase of 40 pages. Greenfield's own chapters have been worked on by several hands, including Professor Dorothy Russell, who has revised the section on trauma. Professor Meyer's chapter on anoxias, intoxications, and metabolic disorders has been split into two. The most noticeable change is in the chapter on demyelinating diseases, originally by Greenfield, and rewritten by Dr. Norman. Under this heading, Norman distinguishes three groups of conditions: 1 Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis of perivenous type, including acute haemorrhagic leucoencephalitis (these sections have been transferred from the chapter on infectious diseases of the central nervous system); 2 multiple sclerosis and allied conditions; and 3 the leucodystrophies. A clear distinction is made between the second and third groups, and the question of the relationship between the first and second groups is briefly discussed.

A very good book, cheap at the price.

DYSTROPHIA MYOTONICA AND RELATED DISORDERS By J. E. Caughey and N. C. Myrianthopoulos. (Pp. xvi + 282; 64 figures. \$10.00.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

At a time when disorders of muscle are receiving increas-

ing attention in the medical literature the authors of this monograph have done a useful service by bringing together a great deal of valuable information concerning dystrophia myotonica and related disorders, including myotonia congenita, paramyotonia and hyperkalaemic periodic paralysis. Their review of the literature is comprehensive and detailed and is throughout interspersed with the results of their own observations of a large number of cases. Dr. Caughey's interest in these disorders has been well known for many years; particularly to be recommended are his chapters on the natural history of dystrophia myotonica and upon cardiac involvement and endocrine function, while the chapters by Dr. Myrianthopoulos on genetic aspects and upon the interrelationship of disorders accompanied by myotonia are also well done. Few monographs of this type are, however, immune from criticism and this reviewer must confess to a sense of disappointment that so little is said in this volume about the many electrophysiological studies of myotonia which have been carried out in recent years. The section on electromyography is telegraphically brief and there is no mention of the E.E.G., which has been shown to be abnormal in many patients with dystrophia myotonica. It might also have been useful to comment upon the relationship between the human disease and the closely comparable disorder which is seen in dystrophic mice of the Bar Harbor strain, but the latter disorder is not mentioned. Nevertheless, as a review of the present state of knowledge concerning dystrophia myotonica and related disorders, and as a reference source, the book can be confidently recommended.

EPILEPSY—A CLINICAL AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS OF 1020 ADULT PATIENTS WITH EPILEPTIC SEIZURES By Palle Juul-Jensen. (Pp. 148; 19 figures; 38 tables. 22s.) Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1963.

This monograph surveys the clinical and social findings in a group of 1,020 epileptics over the age of 16 and seen at the Århus Kommunehospital. The author reviews previous literature and then gives his own findings under various headings. The outcome is therefore a useful review as well as an addition to knowledge.

It is interesting that pathogenesis remains unknown in 643 of 1,008 patients investigated, and that neoplasm accounts for only 37 cases. The latter is certainly a surprisingly low figure. The electroencephalogram in resting records was normal in 41 % of the group. Most abnormality was generalized but when it was lateralized it did not always correlate with the clinical signs. This is a fair assessment of the value and lack of value of E.E.G.s in diagnosis.

The social findings are interesting but must be considered in terms of the Scandinavian social setting. Thirty-six per cent of the patients had social difficulties due to epilepsy, but only 10% had unemployment problems. Of the whole group, only 55 were considered to need formal rehabilitation. This figure must of course depend on the assessment of need, and also to some extent on the background social services available for epileptics. Of car driving, the author says that many epileptics in his series do in fact drive, a position which exists in this country also. Unfortunately figures for

accidents caused by actual attacks are not given. Finally on the question of crime in epileptics, the incidence of convictions for both males and females in this series shows no significant difference from that of the general population.

These are some examples of much useful factual information the book contains.

C. W. M. WHITTY

UNDERSTANDING EPILEPSY By R. Kemp. (Pp. vii + 93. 15s.) London: Tavistock Publications, 1963.

This small book is intended for the epileptic patient and his relatives. Its purpose is to help them to understand what epilepsy is and to gain their collaboration in its treatment and management. The intention is excellent, but the author appears at times not to be familiar with the day-to-day clinical problems of epileptics and in consequence his endeavour is occasionally hampered. Thus it is not emphasized that the employment problem depends largely on the state of the local labour market: that fellow employees may be more difficult than employers; that when there is a personnel officer, to engage his sympathy is one of the best ways of having an epileptic accepted in a job; that there are circumstances where medical advice should be against disclosing epilepsy. Carrying an identifying card in bag or pocket is sensible and useful; wearing a badge is unwelcome to most patients and to suggest it is unrealistic. The Cohen Committee Report is accepted uncritically. Some of its recommendations are controversial amongst those caring for epileptics. The discussion of drug treatment is rather old fashioned but the general advice about the value of drugs is sound. The limitations of surgical treatment is well done and necessary in this era of 'Your life in their hands' and other similar T.V. programmes. In discussing the nature and causes of epilepsy it might have been better to emulate the approach of Lennox and other authorities and emphasize that the tendency to fit is probably common to all brains: it is the ease of elicitation that varies. This allows the question of what is and is not epilepsy to fall more readily into perspective. Some mention of the many successful and famous people who suffered from epilepsy would have been valuable. Despite these strictures, however, the book will be useful to many patients if only because of its encouraging emphasis on the positive aspects of modern treatment and management.

For such a slim volume the price of 15s. seems excessive.

C. W. M. WHITTY

HEADACHE AND OTHER HEAD PAIN By Harold G. Wolff. (Pp. xvi + 773; illustrated. 120s.) London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

This second edition of Dr. Wolff's well-known monograph on headache appears shortly after his unhappily early death. It contains many new experimental observations on headache and some additional clinical information. Much of this comes from his own work and that of his school. The chapter on general consideration of pain remains an excellent and compendious review. His continually fact-finding approach to headache is refreshing and rewarding even though detailed methods may some-