
Fourth in the series, 'Progress in Brain Research', this volume embodies contributions of a symposium on brain development held in Amsterdam in 1962. The research efforts of many countries are represented and each article gives signs of careful preparation, no doubt related to a high standard of editorial control. Experimental studies relevant to a variety of levels of organization, from the molecular to the multicellular, are formally presented, without dilution by those pointless reports of general discussion that mar the pages of many current symposia.

The book is clearly illustrated and impeccably produced.

M. KINSBOURNE


New textbooks are essential every few years to keep the subject alive. New editions are not enough: they tend inevitably to carry a certain inflexibility with them.

This book is a bold venture for one author. It attempts to cover the whole of neurology, including organic cerebrally conditioned mental disease, much of cerebral tumour material that is now neurosurgical, and a section on diseases of muscle which are by tradition regarded as neurological.

Although there is a welcome section on pain there is unfortunately no real consideration of intractable pain, which the neurologist meets constantly, if only with the patient en route to the psychiatrist. It is a pity also that migraine has been placed here, since this does not allow adequate consideration of the size and our fairly full knowledge of this problem. Sections on treatment take second place to diagnosis and pathogenesis, but where therapy is discussed it is generally up to date.

Much dead wood of 19th-century neurology has been pruned in this book and it is a useful introduction for student and resident. The omission of the usually inadequate sections on psychoneurosis and such specialized procedures as electroencephalograms and electromyograms, apart from the essential mention of them in diagnosis, is to be welcomed. Care has been taken over the references which are practical and up to date.


In April 1961, a symposium took place in New York on the subject of the oculomotor system. After a comparatively long interval the contributions now appear in book form. The volume falls into two parts: chapters one to 11 and 21 deal with animal experimentation, and chapters 12 to 20 are concerned with observations on humans. The animal work, largely anatomical, has little relevance to neurological practice. Among the later chapters there are, however, some contributions of outstanding neurological interest.

Jung and Kornhuber present results of electroneystagmography on the staggering number of 13,000 patients. They are able to illuminate the classification of the nystagmus and make out a strong case for their method as an adjunct to neurological diagnosis. Hallpike reports an electroneystagmographic study of the effort of optic fixation on the directional preponderance of vestibular nystagmus in unilateral cerebral disease and neatly resolves apparent contradictions between his results and those of the German workers. A general review of the effect of brain lesions on eye movements is given by Cogan. The book is well worth looking at for these three articles alone, but the reader will also find more of interest on subjects such as binocular fusion, position sense of the eyes, the stabilized retinal image, and the relationship of the E.E.G. to eye movements during waking and sleep.

M. KINSBOURNE


Students of aphasia should not be distracted by the subtitle of this book which suggests an over-emphasis on therapy. The main and important contribution is provided by the close association of a speech pathologist, an experimental psychologist, and a clinical neurologist who are obviously intensely absorbed in the mechanisms concerned with speech in both health and disease.

The authors see five major trends in research in aphasia. First, the further study of aphasic responses; second, exploration of neuropsychological concomitants; third, the measurement and analysis of the free speech of aphasics; fourth, a study of aphasic language in terms of modern structural linguistics; and finally in the direction of statistical and mathematical treatment of data obtained from objective tests and free speech situations.

These aims provide the background for the observations and discussions reported here and they will be widely read with interest and advantage.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

HORIZONS IN NEUROLOGICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.


This is a useful small book in emphasizing the wider horizons of the neurological sciences. Some of the contributors derive a good deal from Harvey Cushing, who derived much from Halsted who, in turn, was indebted to Bilroth and thus ultimately to the Wissenschaft movement in 19th-century Europe. The movement received its impetus, despite its name, as much from France as from Germany. It is entirely appropriate that a work concerned with the horizons of neurological education should have this background. It will be of occasional value and interest to the student of neurological science and biography.
LÄSIONEN PERIPHERER NERVEN. Diagnostik und Therapie.
Clinical neurologists expect to be able to define and localize any lesion of a peripheral nerve. In peace-time practice, however, many nerve lesions are only seen rarely, and for any clinician who wishes to perfect his methods and knowledge of peripheral nerve diseases and injuries this is a wonderfully comprehensive work of reference. The methods of testing the strength of each muscle are clearly illustrated and Table 8 (p. 164) deserves special mention, for here are displayed on one sheet the muscles of the upper extremity which are involved in every variety of peripheral nerve or plexus injury: a most ingenious presentation. The therapeutic problems receive relatively little attention, but from the surgical point of view the use of millipore in the bridging of gaps in a nerve is referred to.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

This book is a monument of careful observation and patient industry. The authors have made a necropsy study of the heart and major arteries in 293 unsellected patients aged 35 years and over and in selected series with large areas of cardiac necrosis or scarring and diabetes. In addition they have studied the aorta in 43 patients aged 15 to 34. They have described with meticulous care the morphology, localization, and correlation between the different types of arterial lesions in various sites with special emphasis on the aorta and on the coronary and carotico-vertebral arteries. The same care has been given to the study of the lesions found in the heart in ischaemic disease. The lesions are illustrated by high quality photomicrographs and the results tabulated in a large number of tables and histograms. This part of the book will remain as a standard work of reference for a long time to come.

Unfortunately, other parts of the work do not attain the same standard of excellence. The discussion of the mechanism of transient ischaemic attacks is far too brief and superficial to be of real value. The chapter on therapy is likewise inadequate; for example, in the section on anticoagulant therapy in transient focal cerebral attacks only one reference is given and no mention is made of the two controlled clinical trials of the Veterans Administration and the United States Public Health Service.

Despite these blemishes in the later sections the excellence of the earlier part of the book, which describes the original pathological work of the authors, makes it necessary reading for all interested in arterial disease.

This is the report of a symposium presented to the American Gerontological Society at Miami Beach. A wide range of topics is covered including haemodynamics, the electroencephalogram in cerebral ischaemia, rheoencephalography, and ophthalmodynamometry. Some contributions have attempted too much, as in one chapter which covers anatomy, pathology, symptomatology, dietary considerations, blood clotting, spasm, collateral circulation, etc., with the result that of necessity the treatment is superficial.

The chapter on anticoagulants is particularly good, being a careful and conscientious review of the present situation as indicated by the literature, but the contribution on cerebral ischaemia in pulmonary disease, which might well have been of great interest, is somewhat disappointing as it is limited to less than four pages.

This little book for the general reader provides a readable introduction to a number of topics in experimental psychopathology. Those most fully treated are experimental catatonia and certain aspects of psychopharmacology. Other chapters on experimental neuroses, on behaviour and initiative in animals and men, and on the problems of experiment in psychopathology are either rather skimpy or rather diffuse. The medical practitioner who wants a simple concise introduction to these important fields of research will probably find it better elsewhere.

In these lectures Dr. Richter has put together in concise and handy form his findings and those of others, on the numerous periodicities of function which may be detected in healthy and, even more, in diseased animals and men. Whether each and every one of these, as it arises, should be taken as evidence for a ‘clock’ mechanism is hardly discussed and no consideration is given to the possibility of deriving one periodicity from another, or others in combination. Richter’s own view is that periodicities which emerge only in morbid states represent a coming into synchrony of the responsible aggregate of cells, and this is a reversal of an evolutionary trend whereby the organism is progressively freed from the tyranny of primitive cyclic tendencies. He has, however, kept speculation to a minimum and the book is packed with fascinating data for the reader to brood on. It will be of interest to a very wide group of people.

CORRECTION

In the paper by J. G. McLeod (J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiat., 1966, 29, 12) the phrase, ‘and recordings were made in turn from each of the three electrodes’ which appears in the first sentence, fifth paragraph, of the section on Methods, has been wrongly placed. It should be in the second sentence, fifth paragraph, which should read, ‘A condenser discharge of time constant 50 μ sec. derived from a thyatron stimulator was applied to electrodes at the wrist and recordings were made in turn from each of the three electrodes with reference to a fourth electrode applied to the tip of the finger; the subject was earthed through the metal plate on the back of the hand.’